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POLL RESULTS

Have you already read the newly enacted labor reform law?

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Sunday January 27, 2008

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Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo, Apostolic Delegate to the Pacific, will visit the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for a weeklong visit from Jan. 28 to Feb. 3.

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Miss America Crowned

Miss Michigan Kirsten Haglund, a 19-year-old aspiring Broadway star, was crowned Miss America 2008 on Saturday in a live show billed as the unveiling of the 87-year-old pageant's new, hipper look.

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US LABOR REPORT SAYS:

Wage hikes harmful to NMI

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Scheduled future wage hikes will further harm the Commonwealth's ailing economy, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Labor to Congress.

The U.S. Labor report said that raising the local minimum wage to the federal level would have adverse impacts on employment and lead to additional population declines in the Commonwealth.

Increasing the CNMI wage to $7.25 an hour, the report said, is comparable to raising the U.S. minimum wage to $16.50 an hour.

"The scheduled minimum wage increases for the CNMI are expected to add further challenges to an already declining economy. With both of its major

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Former Indonesian dictator Suharto dies

By ANTHONY DEUTSCH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Suharto, the U.S. Cold War ally who led one of the 20th century's most brutal dictatorships over 32 years that saw up to a million political opponents killed, died Sunday. He was 86.

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AP

Former Indonesian dictator Suharto waves as he leaves a hospital after having a pacemaker fitted in Jakarta, Indonesia, in this June 15, 2001 file photo.

WRITING ON AND ABOUT SAIPAN JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Over 100 people took part in the lecture of noted author PF (Fred) Kluge of Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio held at the Visitors' Center Theater of the American Memorial Park Friday night. His lecture was entitled "Writing on Saipan: Writing About Saipan" and was sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities. ***See story on Page 2***

Poong-In garment closing today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Over 100 more alien workers are now jobless as garment manufacturer Poong-In Saipan Inc. is closing down its factory in Afetnas today.

Just like any other garment factories that shut down operations, majority of Poong-In workers opted to stay and look for jobs.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody granted 105 alien workers of Poong-In 30 days from today, Jan. 27, to

See POONG-IN on Page 4

Local

Over 100 show up for Kluge lecture

By CLARISSA DAVID
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

More than a hundred people packed the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater Friday night as they gathered for a lecture by a prominent author who has written several books and articles about Saipan.

"Writing on Saipan: Writing About Saipan" by PF (Fred) Kluge is part of Humanities Lecture Series by the NMI Council for the Humanities.

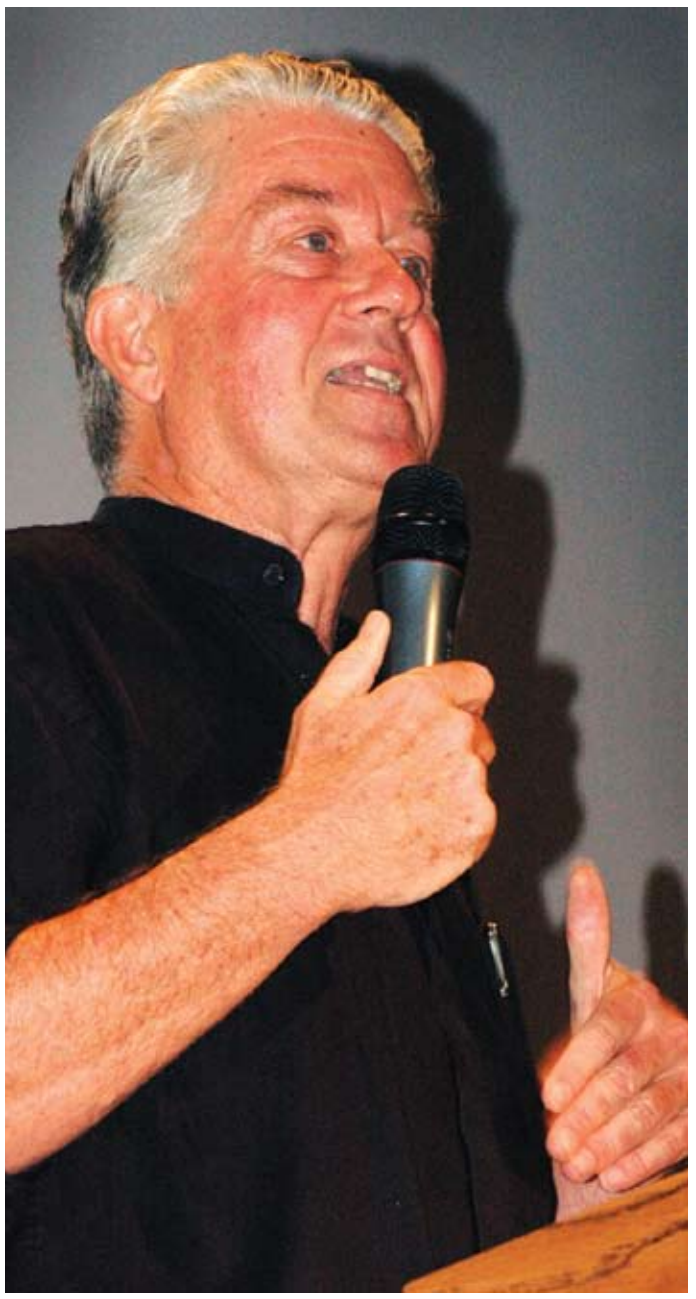
"I am not gonna… speak in any way in judgment of what's going on in this place… What I am, however, and it's what brings me here, is a writer," began Kluge, who first came to Saipan in 1967 as a Peace Corps Volunteer. He was then 25.

Kluge narrated that he was reading a work of writer Lawrence Durrell and was motivated by his decision to request for Ethiopia for his volunteer work but was sent to Saipan instead. "I don't think that my total time on the island aggregates… my years of Peace Corps service… I'm here because I have a long memory of the place, although the time is short but the exposure is over a long period of time."

As a writer, Kluge has traveled to different places like Tasmania, Vienna, and Malacca to name a few. He draws a parallel between the experience of travel to that of being a kid. "You're a kid. Your talk is baby talk to prove that you care as a newcomer… And you are exported to safe places and kept away from dangerous ones."

In his lecture, Kluge differentiated the kinds of writing he has done about Saipan. "The first is non-fiction… It really happens as reported… You can't make things up, you cannot create character, you cannot fabricate quote, you have to tell things pretty straightforwardly as they happened or you cheated… Fiction is a made-up story."

He added that the argument for fiction was "writing to get at truth, inventing things that never happened. And people would believe this… the human conviction discovers its underlying truth and important patterns."



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Noted author PF (Fred) Kluge of Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, delivers his lecture entitled "Writing on Saipan: Writing About Saipan" sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities at the Visitors' Center Theater of the American Memorial Park Friday night.

Kluge reminisced about his stay on the island at that time. He recounted in detail and quoted from his published works how he saw Saipan and the rest of Micronesia at that time.

Even when he got back to the mainland and had a job there, he said that "my heart is some place else. At least part of me is left behind here wondering what on earth is going on."

Kluge told his audience how he kept on waiting for an opportunity to come back to the islands. "…it's a constant return to a place… you don't just write one book, cross the topic off your list, say 'been there, done that,' (then) move on to the next thing… my intent in going back to Micronesia was… to see what had happened to him, what had happened to the place, a little bit about what had happened to me while I had been away."

In 2004, Kluge came back for the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Battle in Saipan. His written piece appeared in Antioch Review. "The description that I gave, the point was to explain to the vets what happened since they left, since the war, to connect the Saipan they remember to the Saipan they're visiting now… to make the connection. And I tried to describe the Saipan that I had found when I arrived here in the '60s."

Kluge rationalized why Saipan is important to him. "There's a closer weave of life on islands that you confront the eternal questions on a smaller scale… that everybody sort of knows everybody… that it's a proper place to come to terms to life… that human nature reveals itself to be discovered, discussed, dramatized on an island."

Kluge, who holds a PhD from the University of Chicago, is currently teaching at Kenyon College in Ohio. Kluge worked for *Wall Street Journal, Life* magazine, and *National Geographic Traveler* and wrote articles for *Playboy, Rolling Stone,* and *Smithsonian*. At present, he is working on his 10th book, which also covers Saipan.

Tina Sablan eyes changes in Legislature

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan is eyeing several changes to the Legislature, from its size and budget to the way it conducts internal business.

Sablan

Sablan said she wanted to see the size of the Legislature reduced and its budget ceiling lowered. She will also revive a proposal to create a part-time Legislature. Furthermore, she proposes to have the Open Government Act reapplied to the Legislature.

She is taking a two-pronged approach to get these proposals—through legislature and through initiative.

"I would like to introduce these as statutes. But if for some reason, they do not pass in the Legislature, I think it's important to get them on the ballot through the initiative process," she said.

Sablan, as a private citizen, began circulating the citizens petition on the Open Government Act last year. The petition did not make it to the Nov. 3 ballot, as it was about 200 signatures short when the deadline ended.

Sablan said that petition is still open for signatures. If the initiative does not pass the Legislature first, it can be submitted for placement on the 2009 ballot.

"I am just following up on the commitments that I had made prior to the election," she said. "Again, these are initiatives that came out of the constitutional convention in 1995. There were 38 proposals that came out of that convention, none of them passed because they were all presented as one package. I picked out some that I found really significant that I would like to see on the ballot in 2009."

She called on people to volunteer and help draft the initiatives or circulate the petitions.

In addition, she said she would seek amendments to the rules and procedures of the House of Representatives.

She also said she will introduce a bill requiring appropriation for all laws that would require expenditures of funds. This will ensure that the Legislature does not create unfunded programs or agencies.

High-surf advisory in effect in Northern Marianas

A high-surf advisory is in effect in the Northern Marianas until tomorrow morning, according to the Emergency Management Office.

In an advisory yesterday, the agency noted that large north swells generated by strong winds east of Japan will bring hazardous surf to north-facing reefs.

EMO said the surf on north-facing exposures is expected to remain at six feet through Monday night. The surf is expected to subside below the advisory level by Tuesday.

A high-surf advisory means that dangerous surf is occurring and producing life-threatening rip currents.

Therefore, the public is advised to avoid venturing near reefs and exposed beaches, as wind and water conditions support dangerous rip currents. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Wiseman orders deportation of alien worker in alleged illegal taxi operation

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ordered the deportation of an alien worker who was arrested in 2005 for allegedly engaging in illegal taxi operation on Saipan.

Wiseman ruled that he finds by clear and convincing evidence that Minxiu Jin, a Chinese, is a deportable alien in that he failed to comply with the conditions and requirements of his entry.

Wiseman said specifically Jin overstayed his work entry permit which expired on July 3, 2002.

"It is hereby ordered that the respondent is a deportable alien, that he is ordered deported from the Commonwealth, and that he be removed forthwith pursuant to Commonwealth law and regulation," said the judge in his order.

Jin was among some alien workers arrested in May 2005 in connection with the government's operation against illegal taxi operators.

Immigration Capt. Nicolas T. Reyes stated in court papers that Jin was arrested during an "illegal taxi operation" jointly conducted by officers from Immigration, Labor, Department of Public Safety and the Attorney General's Investigative Unit.

Reyes said Jin picked up the "decoys" from the Dolphin Store in San Jose and drove them to Hyatt Regency Saipan. The "decoys" paid Jin for the "taxi service."

When arrested, the respondent admitted engaging in taxi service, Reyes said.

Reyes said Jin was issued a nonresident worker's entry permit on Oct. 17, 2001 as a sewing machine operator for the garment manufacturer Marianas Fashions Inc. The permit expired in July 2002.

Jin confessed he was working as a taxi driver and was renting the vehicle he used for the business from the owner for $500 monthly, according to the investigator. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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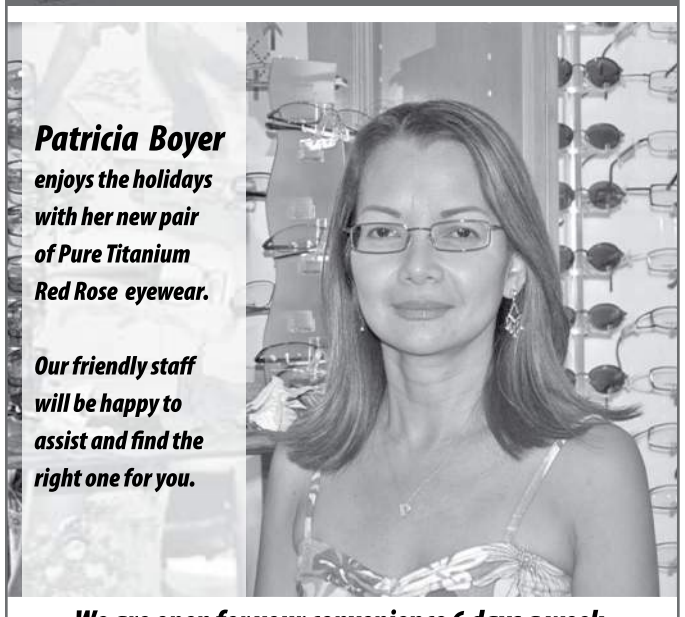
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NCLEX requirement waived for CHC midwives

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A local licensing board has waived the nursing examination requirement for Fijian midwives so they can return and work at the hospital immediately.

The Commonwealth Health Care Professions Licensing Board adopted emergency regulations providing for the immediate licensure of midwives who previously practiced in the CNMI.

The regulations were adopted amid a lack of midwives and support personnel to deliver babies presently anticipated for delivery.

In a public notice, the board said that the Commonwealth Health Center would have had no midwife in service if additional personnel was brought by Dec. 23, 2007. There are three Saipan-based midwives available to CHC. There are three more in Fiji who are willing to return to Saipan immediately.

These midwives had to leave because local regulations classified them as nurses and they had failed to secure NCLEX certification.

The board said that it is a non-nursing regulator, and does not require the passage of the written NCLEX to support licensure for midwifery.

The board justified its decision, saying that "Midwives are key health care professionals who deliver babies in the CNMI, and CHC has had excellent experience for years with its Fijian-trained midwives. Nurses are not necessarily substitutes for midwives because they are not automatically trained, or automatically competent, to deliver babies."

The board added, "There are a very limited number of physicians available to deliver babies in the CNMI, and because they perform many other medical functions, their time is limited for this set of tasks."

Former American Samoa prison warden sentenced

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—The Honolulu federal district court has sentenced former prison warden Amituanai Mika Kelemete to two years in prison and former prison guard Siaumau Mapu to 3 years and three months in jail.

Amituana'i had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit a civil rights violation related to the beating of an inmate at the prison in 2003.

Mapu pleaded guilty to beating another inmate and lying to federal agents who were investigating the allegations against warden Amituanai.

The two have to report to the Federal Detention Center in Honolulu on March 10 to begin their jail terms.

Upon release they will be on probation for three years.

POONG-IN

From Page 1

submit applications for transfer to new employers.

"These workers may transfer to non-garment jobs if qualified," said Cody in his order. He added that the job vacancy announcement requirements are waived for transfer to the same job category with other garment industry employers.

The hearing officer said if any of the 105 employees fails to submit transfer permit application within the 30-day period, that worker should no longer be eligible for transfer relief at the conclusion of the case.

Cody said if the employee requests repatriation, Poong-In must provide a repatriation ticket within 15 days and that worker must depart the CNMI.

He said the work/entry permits of the 105 employees are revoked effective today, Monday.

Cody directed all the employees to register with the Division of Employment Services and Training on or before Feb. 4, 2008.

It was not clear yet as to the exact number of alien workers who decided to go back to their countries. There is no available information as to how many resident workers are affected by the closure.

Like the other factories that also closed, Poong-In's reasons for folding its garment are the rising costs of labor, the increased competition from China and other Asian countries, and the increased costs of doing business in the CNMI.

Poong-In is the third garment factory to close this month.

Last Jan. 18, Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. shut down its factory in Afetnas. Majority of its 157 alien workers opted to stay to find new employers.

Last Jan. 13, Neo Fashion Inc. also ceased operations. But majority of its guest workers also wanted to stay and look for jobs in the CNMI.

Neo Fashion's closure effective rendered 88 alien workers and 13 resident workers jobless.

L&S Apparel Inc. ceased operations on Dec. 31, 2007, but many of its alien workers also decided to stay and look for other jobs.

Many garment factories closed down on Saipan since January 2005, when the World Trade Organization lifted trade quotas.

The liberalization of trade rules has allowed Third World countries to export their garments to the U.S. As a result, many garment factories in the CNMI shutdown operations.

FORMER

From Page 1

The former leader and army general had been ailing in a hospital in the capital, Jakarta, since Jan. 4 when he was admitted with failing kidneys, heart and lungs. Doctors prolonged his life through dialysis and a ventilator, but he stopped breathing on his own overnight before slipping into a coma Sunday.

He was declared dead at 1:10 p.m. when his heart stopped. The cause of death was multiple-organ failure, Chief Presidential Dr. Marjo Subiandono said.

"My father passed away peacefully," sobbed Suharto's eldest daughter, Tutut. "May God bless him and forgive all of his mistakes."

A week of national mourning was declared by the office of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who was to oversee a state funeral after Suharto's body had been flown by a fleet of seven Air Force planes to be put in the family mausoleum.

In a televised address, Yudhoyono called on "the people of Indonesia to pay their last respects to one of Indonesia's best sons and national leader who has done very great service to his beloved nation."

Finally toppled by mass street protests in 1998, Suharto's departure opened the way for democracy in this predominantly Muslim nation of 235 million people and he withdrew from public life, rarely venturing from his comfortable villa on a leafy lane in the capital.

Suharto had ruled with a totalitarian dominance that saw soldiers stationed in every village, instilling a deep fear of authority across this Southeast Asian nation of some 6,000 inhabited islands that stretch across more than 3,000 miles.

Since being forced from power, he had been in and out of hospitals after strokes caused brain damage and impaired his speech. Blood transfusions and a pacemaker prolonged his life, but he suffered from lung, kidney, liver and heart problems.

Suharto was vilified as one of the world's most brutal rulers and was accused of overseeing a graft-ridden reign. But poor health - and continuing corruption, critics charge—kept him from court after he was chased from office by widespread unrest at the peak of the Asian financial crisis.

The bulk of political killings blamed on Suharto occurred in the 1960s, soon after he seized power. In later years, some 300,000 people were slain, disappeared or jailed in the independence-minded regions of East Timor, Aceh and Papua, human rights groups and the United Nations say.

Suharto's successors as head of state—B.J. Habibie, Abdurrahman Wahid, Megawati Sukarnoputri and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono—vowed to end corruption that took root under Suharto, yet it remains endemic at all levels of Indonesian society.

With the court system paralyzed by corruption, the country has not confronted its bloody past. Rather than put on trial those accused of mass murder and multibillion-dollar theft, some members of the political elite consistently called for charges against Suharto to be dropped on humanitarian grounds.

Some noted Suharto also oversaw decades of economic expansion that made Indonesia the envy of the developing world. Today, nearly a quarter of Indonesians live in poverty, and many long for the Suharto era's stability, when fuel and rice were affordable.

But critics say Suharto squandered Indonesia's vast natural resources of oil, timber and gold, siphoning the nation's wealth to benefit his cronies and family like a mafia don.

Jeffrey Winters, associate professor of political economy at Northwestern University, said the graft effectively robbed "Indonesia of some of the most golden decades, and its best opportunity to move from a poor to a middle class country."

"When Indonesia does finally go back and redo history, (its people) will realize that Suharto is responsible for some of the worst crimes against humanity in the 20th century," Winters added.

Those who profited from Suharto's rule made sure he was never portrayed in a harsh light at home, Winters said, so even though he was an "iron-fisted, brutal, cold-blooded dictator," he was able to stay in his native country.

Like many Indonesians, Suharto used only one name. He was born on June 8, 1921, to a family of rice farmers in the village of Godean, in the dominant Indonesian province of Central Java.

When Indonesia gained independence from the Dutch in 1949, Suharto quickly rose through the ranks of the military to become a staff officer.

His career nearly foundered in the late 1950s, when the army's then-commander, Gen. Abdul Haris Nasution, accused him of corruption in awarding army contracts.

Absolute power came in September 1965 when the army's six top generals were murdered under mysterious circumstances, and their bodies dumped in an abandoned well in an apparent coup attempt.

Suharto, next in line for command, quickly asserted authority over the armed forces and promoted himself to four-star general.

Suharto then oversaw a nationwide purge of suspected communists and trade unionists, a campaign that stood as the region's bloodiest event since World War II until the Khmer Rouge established its gruesome regime in Cambodia a decade later. Experts put the number of deaths during the purge at between 500,000 and 1 million.

Over the next year, Suharto eased out of office Indonesia's first post-independence president, Sukarno, who died under house arrest in 1970. The legislature rubber-stamped Suharto's presidency and he was re-elected unopposed six times.

During the Cold War, Suharto was considered a reliable friend of Washington, which didn't oppose his violent occupation of Papua in 1969 and the bloody 1974 invasion of East Timor. The latter, a former Portuguese colony, became Asia's youngest country with a U.N.-sponsored plebiscite in 1999.

Even Suharto's critics agree his hardline policies kept a lid on Indonesia's extremists. He locked up hundreds of suspected Islamic militants without trial, some of whom later carried out deadly suicide bombings with the al-Qaida-linked terror network Jemaah Islamiyah after the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S.

Meanwhile, the ruling clique that formed around Suharto - nicknamed the "Berkeley mafia" after their American university, the University of California, Berkeley—transformed Indonesia's economy and attracted billions of dollars in foreign investment.

By the late 1980s, Suharto was describing himself as Indonesia's "father of development," taking credit for slowly reducing the number of abjectly poor and modernizing parts of the nation.

But the government also became notorious for unfettered nepotism, and Indonesia was regularly ranked as one of the world's most corrupt nations as Suharto's inner circle amassed fabulous wealth. The World Bank estimates 20 percent to 30 percent of Indonesia's development budget was embezzled during his rule.

WAGE

From Page 1

industries declining simultaneously, the CNMI economy is in overall decline, and its current economic situation makes it especially vulnerable to additional shocks. While data are not available to precisely quantify the impact of the recent and scheduled future increases in the minimum wage, it seems likely that the current economic decline may be made worse," states the report.

It adds, "General experience in the U.S. and elsewhere has shown that potential adverse economic effects of minimum wage increases can be masked or offset to some degree by an expanding economy that is generating net employment growth. In a declining economy, any adverse impacts on employment will not be offset."

The report also predicted that future job losses would exacerbate the declining population trend in the CNMI. Displaced nonresident workers would return to their home countries, while U.S. citizens would take advantage of their access to U.S. labor markets.

The U.S. Labor's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy prepared the report in response to the requirement of the federal wage hike law. The law states that the Labor secretary should report to Congress the findings of a study assessing the projecting the impacts of minimum wage increases on the CNMI and American Samoa. Both jurisdictions fall under federal wage policy for the first time.

The U.S. Labor's findings bolster the argument of the local government and private sector against additional minimum wage increases in the CNMI.

"The report speaks for itself," said Richard Pierce, the governor's special assistant for trade relations. "We appreciate the extraordinary effort extended by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, and agree with the report's summary conclusions."

"Everyone wants and expects wages to increase, but when it comes to increasing the minimum wage itself, and the adverse effect it would have on revenue generation in an already unhealthy economy, it may be better to wait until we've regained a little of that economic ground we've lost in the last five years," Pierce said.

"As far as what the Congress will do with the report's findings, I would imagine the challenge with preparing a minimum wage impact report would be putting it into a language politicians would understand," he added.

Under the minimum wage law, the local wage floor must be raised gradually until it reaches federal level in 2015. The first 50-cent increase was implemented on July 25, 2007. The next 50-cent increment will take effect on May 26, 2008, unless Congress passes legislation to stop it.

Archbishop Balvo to visit Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo, Apostolic Delegate to the Pacific, will visit the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for a weeklong visit from Jan. 28 to Feb. 3.

On behalf of Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa welcomes archbishop Balvo to the CNMI.

"This pastoral visit by Archbishop Balvo will enable him to experience the life and activity of our local Church, interact with people, and share with us the thoughts and ideas of the Holy Father," said Bishop Camacho.

Archbishop Balvo serves as the Apostolic Delegate to the Pacific wherein lies the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, and, as the Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Western Samoa, Tonga, Palau and Vanuatu.

In addition to these diplomatic assignments, Archbishop Balvo is the Titular Archbishop of Castello.

"Archbishop Balvo's first visit to our islands is a great honor," said Bishop Camacho in explaining the significance of this visit. "In a way, Rome becomes closer to us having a representative of the Holy Father in our midst."

He further explains that this visit is important because as the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Balvo will convey to Rome the life and concerns of the local church.

Beginning today, Jan. 28, Archbishop Balvo will see for himself what it means to be in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, said Bishop Camacho.

Balvo

"His weeklong stay will enable him to experience the life of the Church in our islands and our local customs. He will also interact with people and share his reflections at the mass services scheduled on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian during his visit," he added.

Archbishop Balvo was born on June 29, 1951, in Brooklyn, New York, and was ordained priest on June 6, 1976, in Rome.

He studied for the priesthood at the North American College in Rome, obtained a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology and a Licentiate in Biblical Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University. He then pursued his studies in Canon Law and obtained his Licentiate at the Catholic University of America and Doctorate at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

In 1984, Archbishop Balvo entered the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome to prepare for diplomatic service for the Holy See. Then, for 18 years he served in diplomatic assignments for the Holy See in Ghana, Togo and Benin, Ecuador, Chile, Czech Republic, Jordan, Africa, South America, and in the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

Archbishop Balvo was appointed Apostolic Delegate to the Pacific on April 1, 2005, the same time he was also appointed Nuncio to New Zealand and other countries in the South Pacific.

Archbishop Balvo was ordained archbishop on June 29, 2005, by New York Cardinal Edward Michael Egan with the two Nuncios, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, former Nuncio to the United States and Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Nuncio at the United Nations.

In the Roman Catholic Church, an Apostolic Delegate is a representative of the pope in a country that has no regular diplomatic relations with the Vatican. An Apostolic Nuncio, on the other hand, is a permanent diplomatic representative of the pope having ambassadorial status. While a local church is governed by a bishop under the pope, an apostolic nuncio or delegate fosters the mission of the church through this relationship by fulfilling mandates committed to him by the Holy See in Rome. The last Apostolic Delegate to visit Saipan was many years ago in the person of Archbishop Patrick Coveney who is now the Apostolic Nuncio to Greece. ***(PR)***

Archbishop's schedule

Archbishop Balvo arrives on Saipan on Monday, January 28, 2008. His schedule is as follows:

■ Tuesday	Jan. 29, 2008	7:45am	Eucharistic celebration on the occasion of Catholic Schools Week at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.
		11am	Audience with Clergy and Religious Sisters at the Fiesta Resort and Spa, Garapan, Saipan.
■ Wednesday	Jan. 30, 2008	6pm	Eucharistic Celebration at the San Francisco De Borja Church, Songsong, Rota.
■ Friday	Feb. 1, 2008	6pm	Eucharistic Celebration at the San Jose Church, San Jose, Tinian.
■ Saturday	Feb. 2, 2008	10am	Eucharistic Celebration with the Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation students at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.
■ Sunday	Feb. 3, 2008	9am	Eucharistic Celebration with all Church organizations, movements and the faithful at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

The scheduled Eucharistic celebrations are open to all. Come to see, hear and welcome our brother in Christ, His Excellency, Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo! ***(PR)***

SBA Hawaii sets regional lending conference

HONOLULU—The Hawaii District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration will conduct the first Hawaii Pacific Lending Conference on March 27 and 28, 2008, at the Honolulu Country Club in Honolulu, Hawaii. This important conference will cover the latest economic overviews for Hawaii, the region and the nation, small business banking trends, SBA loan programs and industry updates.

"With the attention of the business and financial community intensely focused on the economy and the subprime crisis, this conference is really timely. It's a challenging, yet exciting time for the small businesses that we serve," said Andrew Poepoe, Hawaii District Director. "We've developed this conference to help more lenders learn about opportunities in our area. We're encouraging participation from lending institutions and service providers from Hawaii, the Mainland, and the Pacific region such as Guam, Saipan and American Samoa."

The conference is designed for small business lenders, lending service providers, certified development companies, and small business assistance providers and economic development specialists to increase their knowledge of financing tools and trends as well as their effectiveness in penetrating the small business market in the Hawaii Pacific region.

Presented by SBA and SCORE, the conference will commence at 8:30am on Thursday, March 27 and will feature prominent executives and industry experts in general session and as the luncheon keynote. Smaller workshops will be offered the participants for the more in-depth, specific topics.

The half-day schedule on Friday, March 28, starts at 7:30am with breakfast and continues with more market and industry information in general sessions.

For more information or registration forms, go to http://www.sba.gov/hi or contact Karen Sakihama at hawaiigeneral@sba.gov or (808) 541-2990, ext. 209. ***(PRNewswire)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
1211 CAPITOL HILL ROAD
P.O. BOX 5150, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL. NOS. (670) 322-4363/6954 • FAX NO. (670) 322-3327

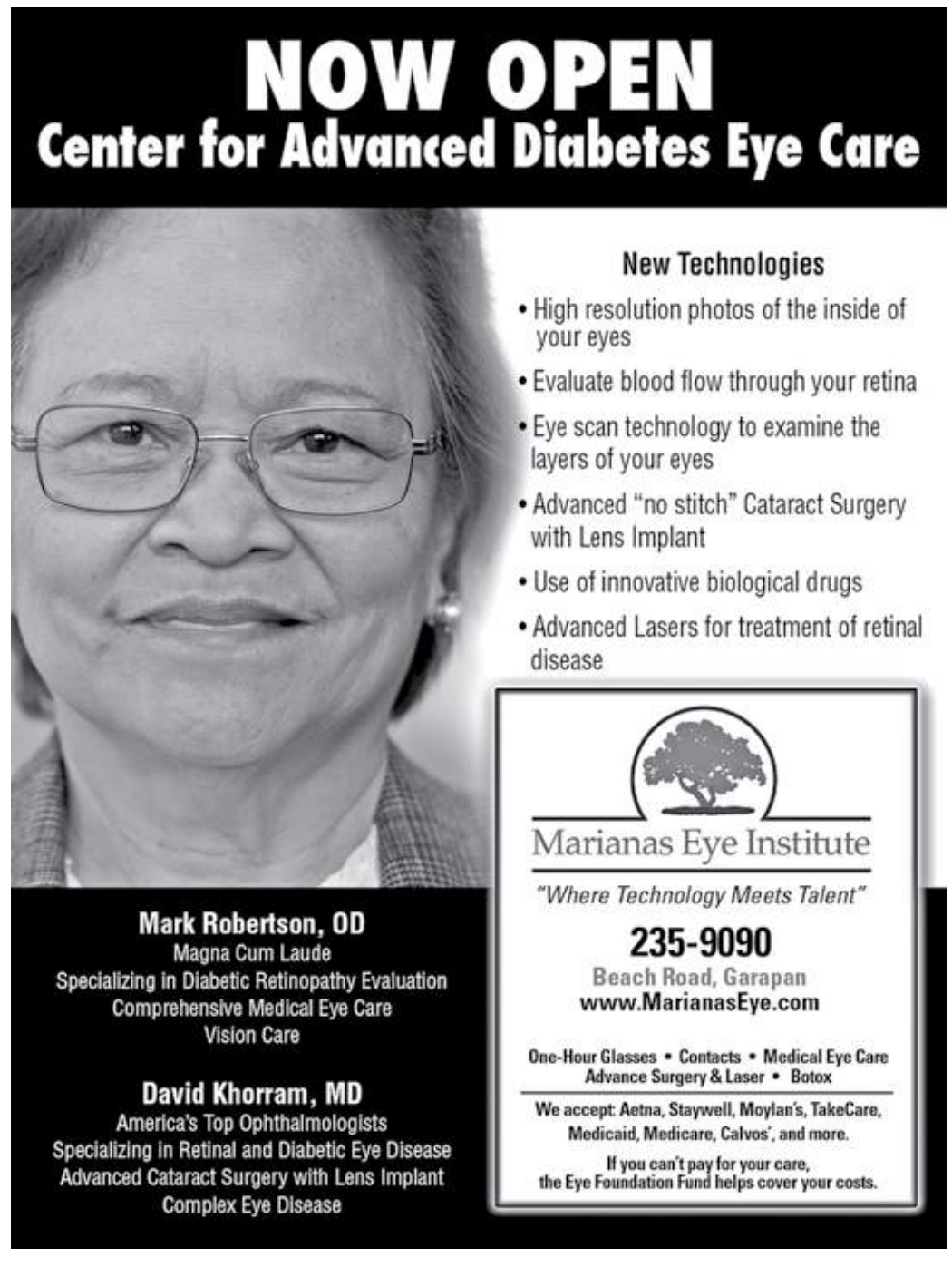
PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §8113, the Civil Service Commission hereby gives notice that the Board will meet on January 29, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Civil Service Commission Conference Room, 1211 Capitol Hill Road, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Seating of new Commission Members**
4. **Election of Officers**
5. **Adoption of Minutes**
6. **Executive Directors Report**
7. **Legal Counsel Report**
   a. P.L. No. 15-43 Boards and Commissions Reform Act of 2006
   b. Cases to be scheduled for hearing
8. **Old Business**
   a. Adoption of amendments to Personnel Service Rules and Regulations
9. **New Business**
   a. House Bill No. 15-122
   b. Renumbering of Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations
   c. P.L. No. 15-119
9. **Announcements**
10. **Adjourn**

Felix R. Fitial, Member Daniel H. Nielsen, Member Tina I. Kukkun, Member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• Advanced Lasers for treatment of retinal disease
Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude
Specializing in Diabetic Retinopathy Evaluation
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Munson wants to know where is Santos' $500K deposit

As sentencing of ex-Marpac GM postponed again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court wants the U.S. Probation Office to locate the $500,000 that was previously in the bank accounts of former Marianas Pacific Distributors general manager Joseph V. Santos.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson directed the Probation Office to research when Santos' bank accounts were closed and what the balance was at that time.

Munson

Munson requested the Probation Office to determine where the $500,000 is today, or if it was spent, how was the money spent, the types of purchased items.

The judge stated that a determination should also be made as to where the $50,000 bond posted by the defendant at the CNMI Superior Court and the $10,000 property bond posted in the federal court had come from.

Munson continued again the sentencing of Santos that was set for Jan. 23, 2008.

Munson informed the parties that after reviewing the Probation Office's presentence investigation report, he was not prepared to go forward with the sentencing.

He said he would likely sentence the defendant outside the advisory guideline range unless a determination was made as to the whereabouts of the money taken.

Munson said he needs more information before he can impose sentence on Santos.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Moore did not object. He offered to assist the Probation Office with the court's requests.

Defense attorney Colin Thompson had no objection.

Munson notified the defendant that the maximum penalty is 20 years and a $1 million fine.

Munson re-set again the sentencing for Feb. 26, 2008 at 9am.

In September 2007, Santos entered a guilty plea in federal court to charges he defrauded MARPAC approximately $520,000 in four years.

Santos pleaded guilty to an information charging him with mail fraud.

Munson accepted Santos' plea and first set the sentencing for Dec. 11, 2007, at 9am. The sentencing was then re-set for Jan. 3, 2008.

On Jan. 3, 2008, the sentencing was re-set for Jan. 23, 2008, as the parties in the case agreed to postpone the hearing.

One reason cited at the Jan. 23 hearing for the continuance is that Santos's counsel, Thompson, was scheduled to be off-island on the original date (Jan. 3) sentencing schedule.

Moore at the time was also be leaving island.

Another reason is that Thompson and Moore both submitted comments to the U.S. Probation Office regarding its pre-sentence report on Santos.

The prosecution said that between January 2003 and in April 2006, Santos made a total $521,813.40 in unexplained cash deposits into four separate bank accounts.

Moore stated in the information that MARPAC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ambros. Inc., a closely held corporation in Guam.

As a franchisee of Anheuser-Busch, MARPAC sells beer products to retail vendors on Saipan.

Moore said that between Jan. 2003 and April 2006, the defendant "devised a scheme and artifice to defraud MARPAC and for obtaining money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises."

2 workers charged in federal court for 'ice' trafficking

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two alien workers who were recently arrested by authorities for their alleged involvement in trafficking crystal methamphetamine on Tinian have also been charged in federal court.

Tian Yun Huang, 40, also known as Ma, and Zhan Dong Guo, 47, also known as Tony, were each separately charged with three counts of distribution of a controlled substance.

During Thursday afternoon's hearing, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood set the detention hearing for today, Monday.

Tydingco-Gatewood remanded the defendants to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

According to the complaint filed by assistant U.S. attorney Craig Moore, Huang distributed 0.6 grams of "ice" on Jan. 9, 2008.

Huang also allegedly distributed 0.5 grams and 0.2 grams of "ice" on Jan. 10, 2008.

With respect to Guo, the defendant allegedly distributed 0.6 grams of "ice" on Jan. 9, 2008 and 0.4 grams and 0.3 grams of "ice" on Jan. 10, 2008.

A Drug Enforcement Administration special agent stated in his report that on Jan. 9, 2008, detectives from the Department of Public Safety debriefed a confidential source (CS) regarding "ice" traffickers on Tinian.

The CS disclosed that a Chinese man known as Ma was distributing "ice" from his residence in Turn Key Housing in San Jose, Tinian.

The special agent said after the conclusion of the investigation, they identified Ma as defendant Huang.

The agent said that on Jan. 9, 2008, the CS and an undercover agent were able to purchase $200 worth of 0.6 grams of "ice" from Huang at the latter's residence.

On the following day, the same CS and the undercover agent were able to buy $200 worth of 0.5 grams of "ice" from Huang at his residence.

That same night, the CS and the undercover agent also purchased $50 worth of "ice" from Huang.

As soon as the surveillance officers announced their presence, Huang allegedly dropped the "ice" contained in plastic straw and fled on foot into the jungle, where he was later arrested.

The officers recovered 0.2 grams of "ice" from the driveway area, according to the special agent.

With respect to Guo, CS informed the authorities on Jan. 9, 2008 that a certain Tony was distributing "ice" at Pacific Laundry in San Jose, Tinian.

Authorities later identified Tony as defendant Guo.

Last Jan. 9, the CS and another undercover agent managed to buy $250 worth of 0.6 grams of "ice" from Guo in the parking lot of J. J. Mart.

On the following day, Jan. 10, the same CS and undercover agent purchased $200 worth of 0.4 grams of "ice" from Guo inside a room at Pacific Laundry.

On the same day, Jan. 10, the CS and the undercover agent bought $200 worth of 0.3 grams of"ice" from Guo.

The surveillance officers then entered the Pacific Laundry but the defendant struggled briefly.

The defendants were recently arrested and brought to the Superior Court for the same transactions.

MLK JR DAY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
U.S. and CNMI flags wave at the American Memorial Park amphitheater during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

Archeologist calls Tonga 'Cradle of Polynesia'

NUKU´ALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga)—Nukuleka, a small fishing village on the northern shores of eastern Tongatapu, at the entrance to the Fanga´uta Lagoon, has been identified by a Canadian archaeologist, Professor David V. Burley, as the cradle of Polynesia.

David drew his conclusion from his final excavation at Nukuleka in August 2007 where, with his team of three archaeological students from the Simon Fraser University, Canada and a scholar from France, they found pieces of Lapita pottery that confirmed his belief.

"The big pieces of pottery are about 2,900 years old and with the others there may be 50 years difference," he said. "Tonga was the first group of islands in Polynesia to be settled by the Lapita People about 3,000 years ago, and Nukuleka was their first settlement in Tonga."

The Lapita people, the cultural ancestors of modern Polynesians, were the makers of Lapita pottery and David's research is showing that they moved out of island Melanesia and into the South Pacific islands making the initial human colonization of the region.

David is an authority on pottery in Tonga and in Polynesia who has done extensive archaeological excavation throughout the Tonga Islands since 1989. He has been to ´Ata, ´Eua, Ha´apai, Vava´u, Niuafo´ou and Niuatoputapu, but most of his findings were on Tongatapu.

David said that within 100 years of the arrival of the Lapita People, the whole of the Tonga islands were settled.

"Then a thousand years later they moved eastwards to eastern Polynesia. There are 19 Lapita sites that we have found around the Fanga´uta lagoon," said David.

"They came here first about 3,000 years ago when the lagoon sea level was higher than today. There were no mangroves, so the lagoon shore was a big beach, and the lagoon was full of shellfish, and everything that we have dug up was packed with layers of shellfish. When we excavated at Havelu, there was no dirt, just solid shells."

"The waterfront around Nukuleka is still rich with shells, imagine 3,000 years ago. At the bottom of the Nukuleka site we found that they were also eating a lot of turtles and birds. We have documented 26 species of birds, including big pigeons and the shells were mainly Kaloa'a."

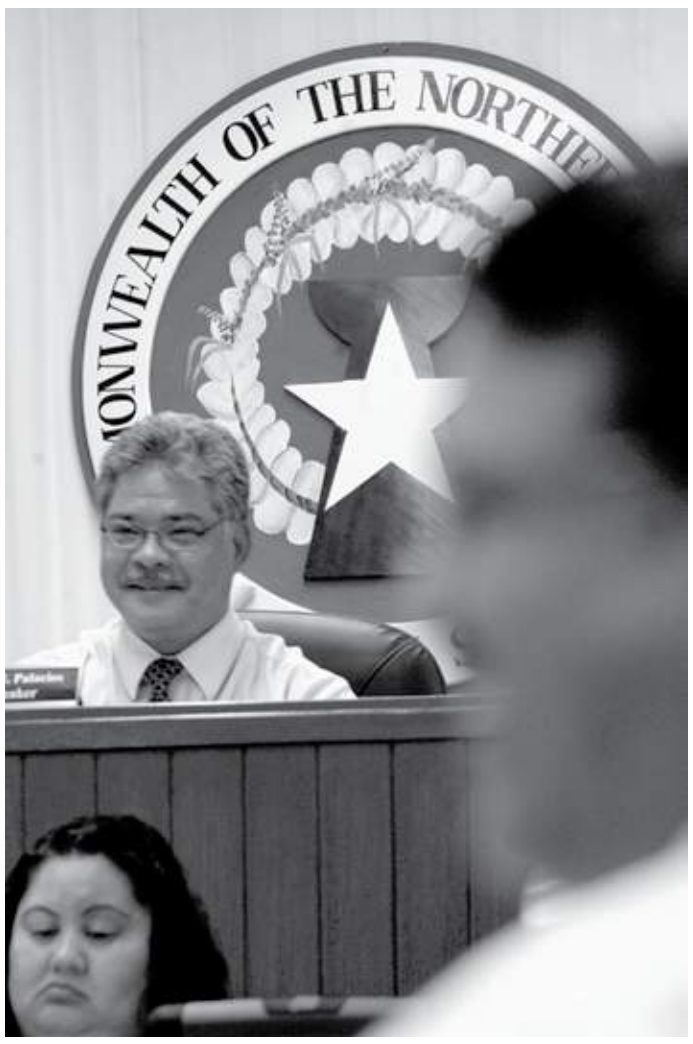
David's excavation at Nukuleka in August 2007 was rewarded with some of his best findings.

"This site was first excavated by Poulsen in 1964-65 and they found sherds, very different from other findings in Tonga, but very similar to what we found to the west, to western Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and so on, so obviously these people come from the west, based on linguist and other evidence. The designs in the pottery are very distinctive and similar to the tapa designs of today, they tell us how related they are to designs in other areas in Tonga and other places," David said. "The designs are also very similar to tattoo designs."

Island Snapshots

OK FOR LAUNCH
Airport staff secure the Northwest Airlines Airbus before departure at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

SOLEMN HILL
Tourists offer their prayers on a monument in Suicide Cliff at the northern part of Saipan. The cliff is also called Laderan Banadero by the locals and is where many Japanese civilians jumped to their deaths as the American forces advanced during World War II.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



VIEW FROM THE TOP
House speaker Arnold I. Palacios leads the first session of the 16th House of Representatives on Capitol Hill Tuesday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PLAY IT SAFE
Children engage in a coloring activity while waiting for their cars to be inspected by certified child passenger safety technicians during the Department of Public Safety's Buckle Up Children Consulting Child Safety Seat on the parking lot of Price Costco Saturday morning. The technicians also educate parents and caregivers about proper installation and use of child safety seats and booster seats during the free inspection.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

LPG HIKE
Liquefied petroleum gas tankers at the Wushin facility in Lower Base. The company increased LPG prices by $0.18 per gallon last week.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WATER FUN
A child tourist spends his afternoon playing on the Siheky Splash Pool of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio yesterday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JUMPING SHRIMP
MARK RABAGO
Saipan SyAqua Aquaculture operations manager Rommel G. Catalma shows a net-full of Pacific white shrimp broodstock at the company's facility in China Town.

LOOK MA, NO HANDS!
Tourists visit the famous Banzai Cliff while the sun sets in Marpi last week.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

Looking back at the Mariana Islands the past 62 years

PHOTO BY DMS
Mrs. Pua is shown weaving a mat made from pandanus leaves.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of '83 meeting

Marianas High School Class of 1983 will be holding a very important planning meeting on Feb. 1, 2008, Friday, at 7pm. The meeting will be held at one of the pavilions at Kilili Beach, Civic Center, Susupe.

Numbers of the 25th Year Reunion Banquet at PIC will be finalized on this night for reservation purposes. Event tickets can still be purchased on a layaway basis, so do not delay and don't miss out on your chance to catch up with the people you graduated with 25 years ago.

You may contact any of the Steering Committee members for details"

- Tonnei Camacho, 483-9665
- Viola Kaipat, 483-0214
- Ed Camacho, 483-5262
- Jane Tudela 234-9571
- Frances Mildred Cruz, 483-0995
- Ester Teregeyo, 285-6284
- Ben Sablan, 287-1480
- Diego Songsong, 287-4300

MHS Class of '88 reunion meeting

This is to inform the class of 1988 graduates of Marianas High School that there will be a meeting on Friday, Feb. 1, 2008 at 7pm at Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda residence in As Lito. This is to update plans on the upcoming 20th year class reunion.

"We are encouraging all classmates to please attend this important meeting for reunion day is just around the corner."

For more information, contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. ***(PR)***

Chamber preps for Corporate Challenge

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is readying itself for the 2008 edition of its Corporate Challenge. This year, the inter-company competitive event is called "Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge."

Each team must be composed of five individuals, at least one of whom must be female. The event will be held at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Participation is limited to the first 20 teams to register. All proceeds will benefit the Chamber's Educational Scholarship Fund.

The Events Committee will discuss all of the particulars in greater detail with Team Captains. There will be three meetings for all Team Captains at the Chamber office on:

- Tuesday, Jan. 29, 3pm
- Tuesday, Feb. 12, 3pm
- Friday, Feb. 22, 3pm

Trails and Parks meeting set

There will be a Trails & Parks meeting on Feb. 7 at 2pm at the Resource Conservation & Development office. The RC&D office is on Beach Road on the first floor of the D.Y. Building with the coral reef banner out front. If it gets too large, the meeting will move next door to the NRCS office conference room.

"I hope to see you there, since anything, we do to improve our environment and ecotourism on this island will benefit everyone," said Ken Kramer, Marianas RC&D coordinator. ***(PR)***

Missing family dog

Our family dog was found missing on Monday, Jan. 21, 2008, around 10:30am from our residence in Palasyo Court, Dandan.

Our dog is a 3-year-old male Rottweiler, black with brown paws. If you see our dog, please contact Rudy at 288-2575 or Jocelyn at 234-6866.

He has been a part of our family and we hold him dear to our hearts. Please help us find him. Thank you. ***(PR)***

Essay and logo contest deadlines are extended

The Hafa Adai-Tirow Spirit Committee is holding a logo contest for all island artists and an essay contest for students grades 7-12. The deadline of submission for both logo designs and essays is Jan. 31, 2008 by 4:30pm. Submissions must be delivered to the Marianas Visitors Authority main office located in San Jose.

The logo contest is open to all resident artists of the CNMI of any age. Logo designs must illustrate the theme "The Hafa Adai and Tirow Way!", must incorporate the theme text, must work well in black and white, and must work well when reduced to 2.5 inches. Artists may submit as many logo designs as they wish. All submissions must include the name, telephone number and address of the artist. Logo designs must be submitted to the front office of the Marianas Visitors Authority, San Jose, Beach Road.

The essay contest is open to all CNMI students grades 7-12. Essays must address the question, "What can I do to show 'The Hafa Adai and Tirow Way!'" Essays must be between 400-500 words, be the original work of the student, and be typewritten on plain white paper or legibly handwritten on white lined paper. All submissions must include the name of the student, school, grade,, address and phone number.

Complete logo contest and essay contest guidelines are available at the Marianas Visitors Authority office, the NMI Museum Office, or you may contact Robert Hunter at telephone 664-2160/4 if you would like the guidelines faxed or e-mailed to you. ***(PR)***

Registration starts for 2nd Guam Industry Forum

The second Guam Industry Forum has launched a new web site and registration portal to kick off its registration period. The Forum is sponsored by the Joint Guam Program Office, JGPO, and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, NAVFAC.

The Forum will provide updates on the planning and acquisition strategy efforts following the first Industry Forum held on Guam in August 2007. Anticipated topics for the March 6-8, 2008 forum include: Master planning and environmental impact statement updates; acquisition strategy and program management approaches; special purpose entities status for housing and utilities; funding profiles & relationships - government of Japan and U.S.; government of Guam issues and needs; future department of defense needs; federal involvement.

More information on the Guam Industry Forum II, the agenda, and registration forms are available on-line at www.guamindustryforum.com. Registration will close on Feb. 25, 2008. ***(PR)***

WSR Elementary January events

Jan. 29 Spelling Bee finals, 2:30pm, WSR cafeteria

Jan. 30 Half-day (Teacher Professional Development Day

The WSR Library will be open from 9am to 4pm from Jan. 2 to Jan. 9. Students and parents are encouraged to come to the library and borrow books and use the resources. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 28, 2002

Chamber quick to reject govt.'s wage hike plan

Besides stringent cost-cutting measures and a possible increase in "sin" taxes, the Babauta administration is also considering an increase in the minimum wage and the privatization of some government operations as means to generate more revenue and reduce expenditures. Based on the CNMI Fiscal Outlook Report that was prepared by the Office of the Governor, among the possible ways to reduce the government's deficit is to raise the minimum wage, which would lead to wage and salary tax collections, as well as additional incentive for government workers to go into private employment.

BOE discusses charter schools with Governor

The Babauta Administration, during a luncheon meeting with members of the Board of Education Friday, floated the idea of introducing the local education sector to the concept of charter schools. BOE chairman Herman T. Guerrero said Governor Juan N. Babauta expressed interest on this "nonsectarian public schools" concept - a system that "operates with freedom from many of the regulations that apply to traditional public schools."

Feds coming to help NMI prepare against bioterror

Federal officials are arriving on Saipan in connection with the nation's efforts to fight bioterrorism, from where the Commonwealth may possibly get funding for infrastructure improvements in line with homeland defense. Public Health Acting Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez, who said the federal officials would meet with the department and the Emergency Management Office, revealed the scheduled visit.

January 28, 2004

Sugar Dock investor abandons NMI

Australia-based Island Transportation Solution abandoned its Northern Marianas' ferry operation project and will move to the Bahamas where it said its sea transportation program would receive tremendous support from the tourism industry. This came after the Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed that it has withdrawn its pending permit application with the Coastal Resource Management and Division of Environmental Quality for the supposed inter-island ferry operation between Saipan and Tinian.

CPA withdraws permit applications for Sugar Dock project

The Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday withdrew from regulatory agencies its permit applications in connection with the proposed dredging and renovation of the Sugar Dock in the face of overwhelming public opposition to the project. Although the Save Sugar Dock movement welcomed this development, the group's Wesley Bogdan stressed that they are not opposed to the proposed ferry service between Saipan and Tinian. Bogdan said he himself would patronize the new ferry service if it uses the current Port of Saipan instead of the Sugar Dock.

Senate to adopt new Official Rules

The adoption of new Official Rules of the Senate is topmost in the agenda of the upper house's first regular session today, according to its officers. Members of the Senate leadership, which includes seven of nine senators, met yesterday to finalize the items to be placed on calendar.

January 28, 2005

Minority bloc boycotts session

After waiting for almost two hours for minority bloc members to show up, House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial finally decided at about 11am yesterday to call off the scheduled legislative session. "They boycotted the session," said a visibly disappointed Fitial.

Four federal agencies now monitoring CNMI waters

Coastal waters of the Northern Marianas are now being monitored by four federal resource agencies to obtain sufficient data that would be included in the next National Coastal Condition Report that documents the condition of all estuaries of the United States. This came soon after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency disclosed that there is no overall coastal water assessment made for the Northern Mariana Islands, along with other U.S. territories, including Guam, due to limited data and reports gathered from 1997 to 2000.

Pacific

Wayward PNG parliament in chaos

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post)—Parliament is in chaos, senior staff members said yesterday. Two senior staff told the Post-Courier yesterday that the current power struggle was only the "tip of the iceberg."

One said among the power struggle and other allegations of corruption, some junior staff were known to be driving around in vehicles they had bought in recent times while other cohorts of powers-to-be were spending money in "physically obvious places and items."

Speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of their jobs, one of them said Parliament must address this issue before any other issues when it sits on February 12. He said there have been a lot of issues raised in the last five years but nothing seemed to have been done.

He said these issues included the alleged misuse of Opposition funds, the purchase of plasma TV sets for the Parliament under "funny circumstances," overseas trips to purchase motor vehicles, the continued lack of air-conditioning in the country's highest office, breakdown of office furniture and the lack of attention to the general outlook of Parliament House.

"The Parliament does not look like the pride of the country where the laws are passed and major decisions are made. Something is definitely wrong and it must be addressed," the officer said. The other senior staff said, "There is more to the leadership struggle and the NEC's decision than we might think."

Both men said the House must be put in order before other major issues were deliberated on when Parliament next sits. They also called for an independent audit of the books and investigations into the Parliament's accounts.

Last week the NEC is reported to have discussed the fate of Speaker Jeffery Nape as it was concerned about the running of Parliament. It agreed that he should be sidelined.

However, NEC does not have the powers to sideline the Speaker.

Only Parliament, which elected him, has the powers to either have the Speaker removed in a vote of no-confidence or to sideline him.

The man in the center of the controversy, Speaker Jeffrey Nape, yesterday maintained he had removed the powers of Clerk of Parliament, Don Pandan. But Mr. Pandan told reporters and in an in-house circular to Parliament staff that he remained the Clerk. The Speaker did not have the power to revoke his appointment. Those powers lay with the NEC alone.

Mr. Nape meanwhile has instituted investigations into allegations against him by NEC that he has mismanaged the affairs of Parliament.

ADB probes $38 million for PNG skills programs

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National)—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is investigating possible mismanagement of US$38.89 million [PGK108 million] given to three Government departments to provide skills training to Papua New Guineans.

The three are the National Planning Office, the Department of Community Development and the Education Department. The "Employment Oriented Skills" project began in 2001. The National Planning Office managed the project from 2001 to 2004 and under a special loan revision mission agreement.

In 2004, the Department of Community Development took over. The Department of Education was an implementing agency, overseeing the other component on skills education, human resource and capacity building.

ADB officer-in-charge Allan Lee said the investigation was still continuing and that he could not disclose any details as yet. The bank has engaged a Singapore-based company, Insight Risk Group, to investigate.

Community Development Minister Dame Carol Kidu said she was aware of the investigation but could not comment further as reports of the probe were not made available to her.

Secretary Joseph Klapat said he would not comment until he saw the reports.

ADB gave a US$20 million [PGK55 million] soft loan for the project with the rest coming from the National Government US$6.9 million [K19 million], provincial governments US$5.1 million [PGK14 million), AusAID US$2.49 million [PGK7 million], German Development Services (US$2.48 million [PGK6.9 million] and other donors US$1.9 million [PGK5.3 million].

Fiji's Air Pacific to increase flights to L.A.

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive)—Fiji's flag carrier, Air Pacific will be increasing flights between Fiji and Los Angeles from May.

In a statement, the airline says it will increase B747-400 flights between Nadi and Los Angeles to five in May and from June to six services weekly.

Concurrently, Air New Zealand will withdraw three weekly B767 flights and market seats on Air Pacific's services under a code share agreement.

The change adds 8 percent more seats weekly to the Nadi/Los Angeles route in total ensuring capacity for substantial growth, Air Pacific managing director and chief executive John Campbell said.

He says the Air New Zealand/Air Pacific code share flights will provide connections to and from Air New Zealand's London flights at Los Angeles.

This ensures continued promotion by Air New Zealand of Fiji in United Kingdom, Europe and the USA, maintaining a network presence for Fiji within Air New Zealand's excursion and round the world fares and tour programs, he added.

He says Qantas will increase code share presence to all six Air Pacific Los Angeles flights, adding further marketing effort for Fiji and growth for the Round the World and related airfare structures of Qantas and the Oneworld Alliance.

Air New Zealand and Air Pacific services between Fiji and New Zealand are not affected and continue as independent competitive flights.

Campbell says that they are delighted that Air New Zealand chose to discuss their plans with Air Pacific, thereby ensuring that they have a continued presence in marketing Fiji and maintenance of the code share arrangements which were successfully introduced in 2007.

"We are pleased by the opportunity for increased utilization of our B747 fleet with economic and employment benefits accruing to Air Pacific and Fiji as a consequence. We believe this is a win-win outcome for Fiji, customers and the airlines."

ILLEGAL FISHING AP

In this photo released by the New Zealand Defense Force (NZDF), the Yushan Maru No. 2, a vessel in the Japanese whaling fleet is pictured from an Royal New Zealand Air Force Orion airplane, Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008 off Antarctica. Japan's whaling fleet was heading toward New Zealand-controlled waters in Antarctica, in breach of an agreement that it would remain in Australian waters during this year's whale hunt, New Zealand Conservation Minister Steve Chadwick said. The Orion airplane photographed the ships during a routine surveillance flight for illegal fishers in the southern oceans.

Shark bites Australian fisherman on boat deck

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—A mako shark attacked a fisherman on his boat deck, biting him on the leg after the man reeled it in while fishing off Australia's east coast Sunday, an official said.

The 20-year-old deckhand was airlifted by helicopter rescue, said Brian Russell, a spokesman for the rescue service. He was flown to the Gold Coast Hospital where his condition was reported as stable before he underwent surgery.

The man had been fishing for tuna when he reeled in a 3-meter (10-foot), 90 kilogram (200 pound) mako shark and landed it on the deck.

"He stepped on its tail and it whipped around and latched on to his tight calf, biting through to the bone," Russell said.

"The shark had his leg clamped in its jaws for several minutes until other deckhands cut its head off," he added.

Paramedic Darrin Hatchman said the victim was lucky to be alive because the bite narrowly missed major arteries.

American Samoa governor out of Hawaii hospital

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—The American Samoan governor, Togiola Tulafono, has been discharged from the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu.

A statement from the Governor's Office says the governor walked out of the hospital without assistance and in very good spirits.

Last week, he was flown to Hawaii on a special aircraft after spending 10 days at the LBJ hospital in Pago Pago.

The governor had an appendectomy on January the 6th and a second operation a week later.

He is to have follow-up checks in Honolulu before returning to American Samoa at a date yet to be decided.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Majuro faces power outage over late fuel delivery

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—Dwindling fuel supplies and a weather-delayed fuel tanker are posing problems for the main utility company in the Marshall Islands. A fuel tanker from S. Korea was scheduled to arrive in Majuro this week, but its arrival has been pushed back to February 1st after severe storms hit South Korea. It takes a tanker about 12 days to make the 3,000-mile journey from South Korea to Majuro. The utility's general manager William Roberts says there is only enough fuel in its tanks to last until next Tuesday. He says they are looking at all options to make sure the power doesn't go out. Majuro has repeatedly faced the threat of fuel shortages because its debt coupled with rising prices and an inability to generate adequate revenues from its customers has forced it to reduce orders of diesel to minimum amounts. The utility came close to running out of diesel on several occasions in 2006 and 2007.

Fiji TV station protests police intervention

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—Fiji TV says it had every right to cover a school dispute and will lodge a complaint with the police commissioner for detaining its crew. A Fiji TV crew was questioned for five hours yesterday after police said it disobeyed an order to leave the scene where it was filming a dispute. Police argued the crew was interfering in police business, but the crew replied it had every right to film the dispute because the school management had invited it to the scene. The station's legal manager, Tanya Waqanika, says the incident was unacceptable. "The freedom of the media should never be really undermined. To be denied media freedom and access by journalist and reporters was unjustifiable. We'll be bringing this to the attention of the Fiji police commissioner and also to the Fiji Media Council." Tanya Waqanika says no charges have been laid yet. The assistant police commissioner has confirmed that the crew was questioned, but would not comment further.

Fiji police commissioner told to pray away evil spirits

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive)—Fiji police's head of special investigation, Assistant Commissioner Nazir Ali, has been told to seek divine intervention to chase evil spirits from his office. Ali got his advice from Police Commissioner Commodore Esala Teleni, who today confirmed receiving a report from Ali alleging sorcery is being practiced in his office. "He reported the witchcraft and I said well you just have to pray hard that you are able to chase the spirit of the devil out of the office," he said. Teleni adds that it is hard to prove Ali's suspicion. He earlier confirmed that a report from Ali resulted in the transfer of a driver and clerk from Ali's office. A FijiTV report earlier this month said that Ali had suspected those who had frequented his office of black magic after writings supposedly linked to witchcraft were found under his desk. Ali could not be reached to comment on the matter.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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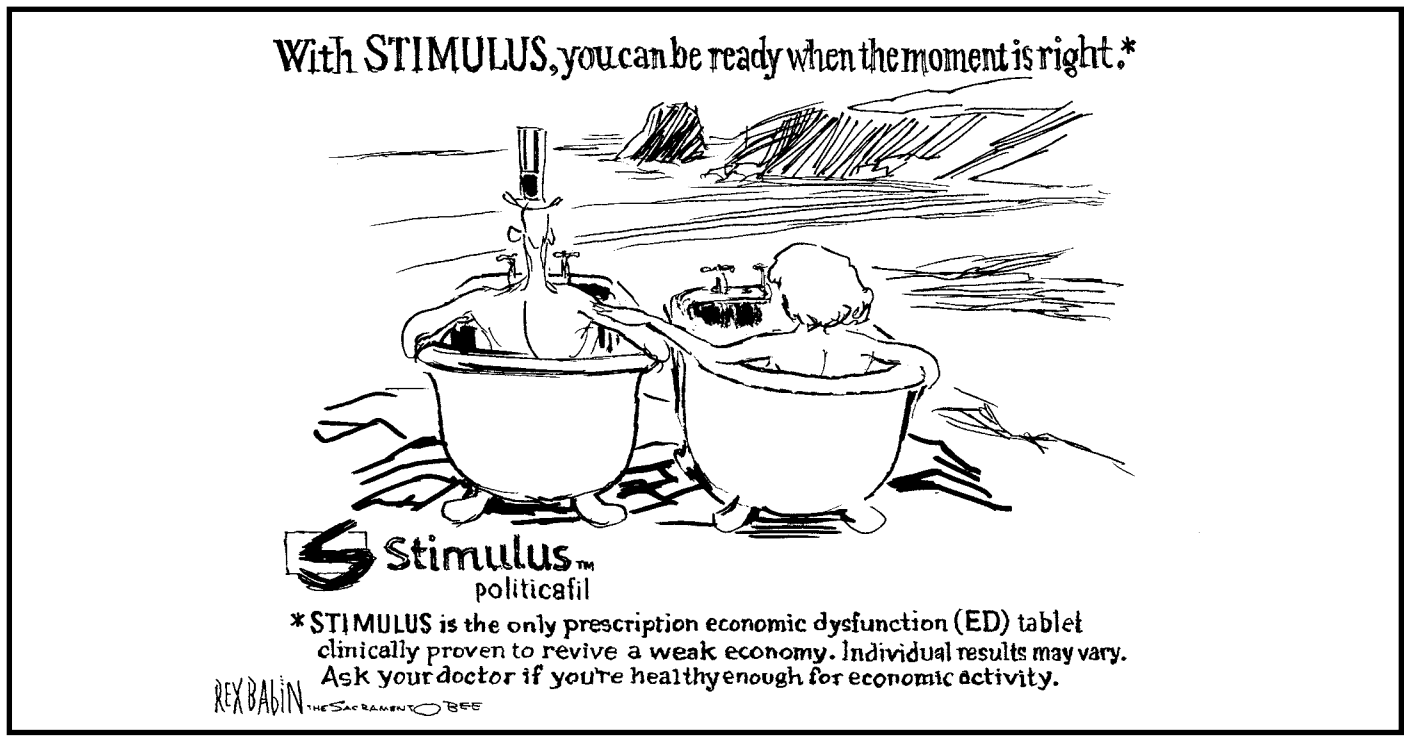
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REX BABIN THE SACRAMENTO BEE

EDITORIAL

High price, poor service

In July, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services increased naturalization and visa fees across the board by an average of 66 percent. One fee more than septupled: the application to change from temporary to permanent residency, which went from $180 to $1,370. Immigration advocacy groups and other critics (including us) decried the ghastly expenses immigrants faced. Still, USCIS pledged that the increases would benefit applicants by allowing the agency to reduce processing times: from six months to four months for permanent residency visas, and from seven months to five months for naturalization applications.

Fast-forward to today. As USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez testified at a House hearing recently, permanent residency applications now take about a year to process,and naturalization applications take a whopping 18 months. USCIS attributes this to the surge in applications it received in June and July — 3 million applications and petitions in the summer of 2007, up from 1.8 million in the summer of 2006 — and says it had no way of anticipating the increase. But USCIS should have known that raising fees so precipitously would have this effect. After all, any expected fee increase encourages people to apply immediately. This motivation, coupled with the heated immigration debate and the corresponding naturalization drives led by advocacy groups, surely led to the explosion in applications.

USCIS has responded to the new backlog with a plan to hire 1,800 more staffers. Gonzalez said this will allow USCIS to reduce wait times for naturalization and permanent residency visas to six months in 2010. This timeline is unacceptable: It will prevent hundreds of thousands of applicants who filed for naturalization in 2007 from participating in the presidential election.

One potential solution, both to this immediate backlog and to the long-term problems facing USCIS's processing, is to stop requiring that USCIS be self-supporting. Unlike other government agencies, it receives no regular appropriations from Congress. Instead, its budget must be covered from funds generated by user fees. The agency has "no plans" to ask Congress for funding, according to spokesman Christopher Bentley, because USCIS is "comfortable" with this model, no matter the hardship its high prices may place on its disproportionately poor clients.

Clearly this model isn't working, and it is contrary to American values. The United States has a historical mission of welcoming immigrants. Given the public (as well as private) good that comes from citizenship, USCIS should receive annual funding so that it can process applications expeditiously, carefully and affordably for new Americans and legal residents.

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The Parable of the Sower

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Recently I saw a magnificent painting entitled "The Sower." Harold Copping, the painter, was inspired from a passage in the Book of Matthew: "A man sowed his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the good soil and produced a crop, some a hundredfold." As the sower continued to spread his seeds, some fell on the wayside and were trampled on. Some of it fell on barren ground and the birds ate it. But the sower persisted until his labor produced a bountiful harvest. The Parable of the Sower symbolizes man's industry and productivity and his ability to bring forth that which is best within him.

As I admired this painting of the Sower, my mind reflected on the sowing that I do in my daily life. I questioned what type of sowing I am doing that benefits my family, my community, and me? Then I thought about the sowing all of us are doing. Is it profiting us, our family, and our community? Do we sow seeds only to produce children and then neglect them? What place do our family and community have in our life? Are we planting mental seeds to expand our store of knowledge? What seeds do I sow at work? When the harvest comes, will it be a hundredfold as the sower's in the parable or will our seeds have fallen by the wayside? As we sow so shall we reap.

Does what I write sound like preachy and corny? Perhaps to some it does. But my motive is not to tell you how to live your life, but to make you reflect on it. As Socrates said: "The unexamined life is not worth living."

I can't help remembering that what we sow is what the community reaps.

You and I can control the environment around us by our attitudes and actions. But we have to constantly examine and keep asking how can I improve it. We need to do a better job of seeing ourselves as others see us.

We complain about injustice, the social problems, the economic recession, and the myriad other problems we face daily. But we take little action to remedy our problems. We expect others to correct them. Who do you think causes them? We do! And just as we cause them, we can also change them if we want to. We can not shirk our responsibility if we desire change.

Until you and I stand up and take responsibility for our actions or non-actions, the problems that befall us will continue to haunt us. Our sowing will bear no harvest. We must question why are we allowing them to continue? Why are we not standing up and screaming: BASTA! STOP!! LET'S CORRECT THEM NOW!!!

Stop believing that change will come from someone else's actions or concern for our welfare. Nonsense! It doesn't work that way and you know it. Change comes from our taking the initiative and demanding change. Changes are made only after you and I refuse to tolerate abuses. You and I as individuals have power to make great changes. Let's use it. We can influence the Legislature to make the necessary changes. Let's stop being puppets.

It takes only one person seriously questioning why haven't our utility problems been fixed after so many years. It takes only one person seriously questioning why ample potable water is not available in the villages of Saipan. It takes only one person to stand up and rally us to demand that we implement the solutions that lie before us.

I stopped believing years ago that lack of money is the reason why we cannot or haven't solved our basic seemingly overwhelming problems. Money is not and never has been the problem. Do I have to keep reminding all of us that we have received from the United States over $700 million and are receiving more every year? What do we have to show for it? Is it any wonder that the United States, the giver, is questioning our sincerely on how we run our country?

Every government agency makes two standard remarks when questioned why something beneficial cannot be done for the community. The first is my favorite: "We don't have sufficient funds." The second is "We don't have the personnel." Have you also heard these? Wow! What a cop out! If the private sector said that, what a real mess it would be in. Perhaps they should get off their buts and do something about the problems. By buts I mean lame excuses.

I have learned in my 44 years as a businessman that when one has a good business plan, the money somehow becomes available. What is lacking in our community is a strong will and determination to make things happen. Until you and I demand and do as the sower did, our seeds will fall on the wayside and be trampled and never grow. It doesn't have to be that way.

Why do we let politicians who during their campaigning promise us all sorts of things and after they are elected we forgive them their broken promises. As a reward we re-elect them. Even though we meet them at parties, funerals, social functions and on the street, we don't demand that they fulfill their promises. Instead we practically kneel, kiss their ring and say: "Hello, Congressman" in a patronizing manner and feel a warmth when they smile or wave at us. It as though the Pope was passing by.

We are as bad as they. If a doctor doesn't cure us, we get angry at him and even threaten to sue him and the hospital. If a company gives us bad service, we get upset and refuse to deal with that firm. If a lawyer doesn't win a case for us, we get angry and even refuse to pay his fee. Yet we forgive the congressmen and even bow our heads to them as though they are some sort of gods. What a farce! We are to blame, for we allow the congressmen to get away with it.

How many of them truly care about our problems? How many of them seek to pass laws that will create jobs or even training for the local people? How many of them are concerned that we have over 8,000 locals, and increasing monthly, on food stamps? How many have even visited the power plant or investigated why we don't have potable water? How many are concerned that our lagoon is slowly being choked and polluted by run off water and sea grass until the beaches are gone? Instead they worry about creating more obstacles to improving our daily lives. Meanwhile our seeds get trampled on or get eaten by birds. When are we going to wake up? We are fast losing all opportunities for progress. Let's stop the madness!

Yes, I am angry. You too must become angry and demand improvements. No more weak excuses. Until you do, change will never happen and the excuses will continue. There can be no more buts. If we want something bad enough, we can find a way to get it. Where there is a will, there is a way!

Let's screw up our courage and demand change now before it becomes too late and too costly. Remember the industrious sower sowed his seeds and reaped his harvest. What will ours be? Weeds?

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Billary's dventures in Primaryland

"Be what you would seem to be—or, if you'd like it put more simply—Never imagine yourself not to be otherwise than what it might appear to others that what you were or might have been was not otherwise than what you had been would have appeared to them to be otherwise."

— The Duchess in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"

By COLBERT I. KING
Special to The Washington Post

WASHINGTON—Which gets me to that superficially charming, self-absorbed couple Billary, ever so possessed with an outsize sense of entitlement. What else to call Bill and Hillary Clinton as they partner in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, tag-teaming Barack Obama with alternating blows both above and below the belt? It's an act the twosome plans to take all the way to the White House.

If they make it there—a big if—the only unanswered question is where Bill will choose to hang his hat. Will it be in her old space in the East Wing, or will he set up shop in the West Wing?

Smart money is on Billary settling in the Oval Office with "his" and "hers" desks.

Who would have thought, eight years ago, that the country might get back Billary, two people reeking of self-pity and spoiling for fights with anyone who has the temerity to stand in their way?

As with the Queen in "Alice," it's all about them. Witness their attempts to devalue Obama.

But don't point that out to the Clintons. They are always right and see no reason to apologize or take back anything they have said or done. And, as we have seen, Billary will say and do anything to come out ahead.

Item: Hillary's claim to "35 years of experience." Subtract her years spent as first lady of Arkansas and in the White House, and her time working as a lawyer in the Rose Law Firm and in other jobs. As Reason Magazine's Steve Chapman reported in November, Hillary Clinton has "just under eight years of experience in elective office—one more than John Edwards and four fewer than Obama." And, to boot, Hillary the Feminist has her man to fight her battles.

Item: Bill Clinton's jab at Obama's lack of experience. To elect Obama would be to "roll the dice," sniffed the former president. When Bill Clinton ran for president in 1992, he was governor of a small state, had no foreign policy experience and didn't know how to salute. He got his on-the-job experience in the White House.

Item: Hillary's complaint that it's hard to pin down Obama. Look who's talking. For a refresher, read Stuart Taylor's Dec. 11 column in the National Journal, "Honesty: Hillary's Glass House." Taylor carefully lays out Hillary's estranged relationship with the truth and her tendency to resort to lies and deceptions when caught in a tight spot. He takes us down memory lane, citing examples of her dishonesty in episodes such as Travelgate, cattle futures, the removal of the Vince Foster documents, Castle Grande, billing records and her husband's philandering.

Item: Her putdown of Obama's oratory and her suggestion that he's only interested in talking, while she's a "doer." "Dr. King's dream began to be realized," she said, "when President Johnson passed the Civil Rights Act. ... It took a president to get it done."

Hillary grabbed the wrong talking points. It took more than a president to get it done. Without leaders of the civil rights movement working with Northern Democrats and their Republican allies in Congress, there would not have been civil rights or voting rights bills in the '60s.

Her remarks betray an ignorance of what happened back then. For a better understanding, pick up a copy of Nick Kotz's "Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., and the Laws That Changed America." Chapters 10 and 11 and the section "The President Under Fire" help shed light on all the people who actually did the heavy lifting.

Item: Billary loves to whine about the "politics of personal destruction." But Billary's campaign has taken to the low road, running ads falsely accusing Obama of supporting federal deficits and private Social Security accounts, and distorting his position on hot-button issues such as abortion. Newark Mayor Corey Booker, who branded the attacks "outrageous" and "dishonest," told Newsweek's Jonathan Alter: "We're trying to offer an alternative to the Republicans' fear and smear campaigns, and now we're being dragged down to their level by the Clintons."

One thing's for sure: A Clinton administration will be a four-year co-presidency with all of the drama that Billary has managed to bring to every undertaking.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves and start worrying about tomorrow. Billary gives us enough to worry about today.

Letters to the Editor

Taotao Tano rebuts Pete A. in interview on KSPN 2 News

We are rebutting the recent statements of our Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio last week on KSPN2 News concerning TAOTAO TANO being misinformed and misled in its opposition of H.R. 3079 Immigration Bill, asserting a federal control over our local Immigration system.

Mr. Tenorio seems to forget that I too testified against H.R. 3079 on Aug. 15 2007 and if anyone is being misled, it is he. Mr. Tenorio collusion with the Department of Interior, fast-tracking a federal immigration bill without the full participation and consultation by the indigenous local people of the CNMI is blatantly disrespectful to local people of the Commonwealth. Our Washington Representative's ignorance and disregard concerning the lack of a general consensus of whether we agree or disagree is unethical and misconduct in Public office.

TAOTAO stresses that the Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio should refrain from further manipulating the indigenous local people of the Commonwealth that the Federal Immigration Bill H.R. 3079 is a done deal for he is not the United States Congress. H.R. 3079 was solely drafted based on Department of Interior David Cohen's own legal interpretation of the Covenant including incorporating outdated labor abuse statistic reports.

TAOTAO TANO further expresses that in 1996 the Department of Interior recognized and advised Congressional committees that the application of the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act to the Northern Mariana's " may not fully address the immigration problems in our homeland and could have unintended economic consequences for the CNMI." Mr. Tenorio continued lobbying and fast tracking H.R. 3079 to the U.S. Congress without the results of a pending GAO study analysis report due in May of 2008 is also questionable.

Finally, TAOTAO TANO expresses that H.R. 3079 should have never been drafted in the first place, without the full knowledge and consultation of the local people of our homeland. We must all understand that our right to self-governance as intended in our Covenant is being challenged and we the indigenous local people must all UNITE and voice our discontent, opposing such an intrusive immigration bill without our full participation and consultation.

Gregorio Cruz
Taotao Tano CNMI Association, Inc./ Social Advocacy Org. president

The truth will set the government and the people free

This is about the "common good" and not my personal preference—so ***"don't be hating"*** as our youth might say. What is the truth about how the majority feels about federalization? That is the million dollar question and it was the FIRST and the ONLY question we really needed to answer but we didn't and the politics have continued until this day with no definitive answer. Both sides of the issue have their valid points but there comes a time when a definitive stance is necessary for progress or the "tug of war" contest over the issue may go on throughout the term of the 16th Legislature to overshadow what we really need to be doing to improve our economy.

Our leaders have chosen to let the people remain in a state of disarray on federalization and other issues because it gives them the upper hand to say what ever they want to say about the people's position. We are not fortunate enough to have legitimate polls that will actually dictate how the majority feel about federalization but we do have an Election Commission that can easily conduct a "yes or no" vote on federalization to determine what the majority want at virtually no cost other than the printing of a simple ballot. Real political scientist use data not hunches and we (the CNMI) could have resolved all this back and forth controversy over federalization in ONE DAY with a vote but that would have been toooooo much like the right thing to do!

The new Speaker of the House has vowed to reestablish the public's confidence in our government and he can start by getting the Legislature to sponsor a SIMPLE vote so the people can once and for all find out where the majority stands. One representative is even talking about proposing a Bill to possibly change our political status without a vote or a public meeting. We are sending mix messages to each other and it shouldn't surprise anyone that Washington is getting the same mixed signal. We are like a group of people in a canoe with one group rowing in one direction towards federalization and the other group rowing is a totally opposite direction away from federalization. I'm sure I don't have to tell the people with common sense—we are getting nowhere fast and we're only creating enmity amongst ourselves as indicated from the recent march against federalization that was not supported by many people.

The CNMI is a democracy—meaning the majority of the people will rule on the federalization issue putting it to rest and freeing the Government and the People of all the controversy over what the people really want. We can elect anyone to do nothing and its really time for something to be done to establish the "consensus" the Feds asked us to because they KNEW what it takes in a democracy to move on and forward but our leaders just didn't get it. Hopefully the 16th Legislature has gotten it and we may actually end up headed in one direction but we'll never get anywhere until there is a consensus established by the majority -duh.

Federalization has always been an issue for the PEOPLE, not our leaders, but the issue has never been given to the people in ANY shape, form or fashion by our leaders and that's common knowledge. The feds did more work than our own government to try and determine the consensus. I've been saying one people one direction for almost five years now and it still hasn't reached the top (our leaders) of our society. They have allowed us to continue debating and demonstrating over federalization a year after finding out that federalization was eminent and there is still no definitive stance by the people. It's time to set the Government and the People free of this issue so we can move on—give us a vote. One people, One direction.

Ambrose Bennett
Kagman

Comical letters to the editor

I find the letters from Wendy Dormal, Jim Benedetto, Ms. Cinta Kaipat, and others to be comical.

I reference to the intent of H.R. 3079, they believe they can predict the future intent of the United States federal government. We cant even trust to be true what the feds have done in the past to be accurate and true, much less what will happen in the future.

All we do is look at what they have done in the past as far as known results. While there is a stated intent of H.R. 3079 in the bill in Section 102, statement of Congressional Intent, one only needs to google Native American broken treaties to see if the feds hold true to the intent of anything they do with insular areas and indigenous peoples.

NMI leaders should demand Jim Benedetto to be removed from office immediately—he has turned his position into a platform for espousing a political agenda. An elected official making laws for the people must espouse an agenda. However his position is not such a post, and it requires impartiality and blind justice; which he shows none of.

William "Bamboo" McCue
Wellington

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼74°	▲80° ▼74°	▲80° ▼74°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼76
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲84	▼77

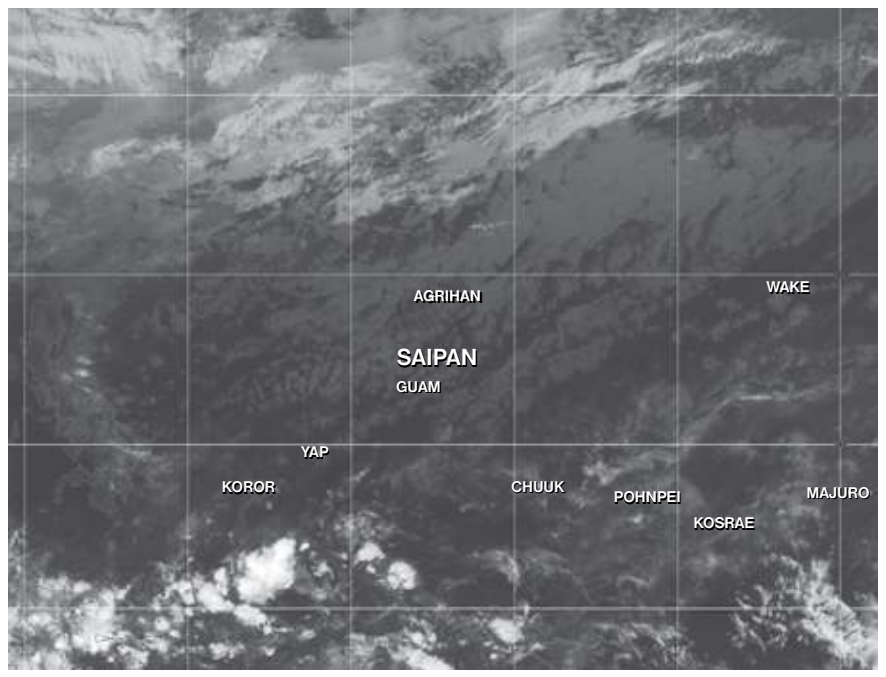
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼65
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲34	▼16
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼63
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼68
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲53	▼44
Los Angeles	Showers	▲58	▼45
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲82	▼64
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼57
New York	Partly Sunny	▲43	▼32
Osaka	Showers	▲42	▼38
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲52	▼39
Pusan	Rain	▲44	▼34
Rome	Sunny	▲58	▼41
Salem	Rain	▲39	▼34
San Francisco	Rain	▲53	▼42
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲36	▼23
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲39	▼36
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲45	▼32

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
05:17AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
11:36AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
06:29PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, JAN. 27, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N170E to 22N165E then continues as a shear line to 8N145E. Extensive low-level cloudiness and scattered showers are found in the modified polar air behind this boundary up to 400 miles north of a line from 15N130E to 22N162E to 25N170E and up to 125 miles northwest of the shear line. Convergence associated with the near-equatorial trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well south of Yap and Palau in an area enclosed by a line from 2N130E to 6N143E to 3N143E to EQ130E back to 2N130E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47AM	6:13PM
Tuesday	6:47AM	6:13PM
Wednesday	6:47AM	6:14PM
Thursday	6:47AM	6:14PM
Friday	6:46AM	6:15PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:08PM	10:23AM
Tuesday	11:56PM	10:59AM
Wednesday		11:36AM
Thursday	12:46PM	12:16AM
Friday	01:38AM	01:00PM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Guam-Nagoya

CO 971	7:45am	10:30am	1,2,4,5,6,7
NW 023	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO 904	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Guam-Narita

JO 982	4:15am	7:00am	Daily
CO 961	7:20am	9:55am	Daily
CO 006	1:00pm	3:45pm	Daily
JO 942	3:30pm	6:15pm	Daily
NW 081	3:55pm	6:50pm	Daily
NW 073	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO 963	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Nagoya-Guam

NW 024	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily
CO 970	11:30am	4:00pm	Daily
CO 905	8:25pm	12:50am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Narita-Guam

JO 941	9:30am	2:05pm	Daily
NW 074	9:45am	2:25pm	Daily
CO 962	11:05am	3:35pm	Daily
CO 007	5:15pm	9:50pm	Daily
NW 082	8:30pm	1:15am+1	Daily
CO 964	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
JO 981	9:30pm	2:05am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589	8:05am	3:00am+1	1,5

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Rogue trader held in French bank scandal

PARIS (AP)—Police on Saturday questioned the young trader blamed for a massive fraud that cost France's Societe Generale bank more than $7 billion, as the country's president accused global financial institutions of having "gone haywire" and urged common sense.

The possible motivations of the 31-year-old trader, Jerome Kerviel, remained a mystery, and the bank said it appeared that he made no personal gain from the unauthorized trades.

Judicial officials said Kerviel was taken into custody earlier in the day—two days after Societe Generale's announcement that he was responsible for one of history's biggest frauds. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing. Under French law, Kerviel can be held up to 48 hours.

Jean-Michel Aldebert, head of Paris' financial police, said Kerviel gave himself up. He "is very well, he's collaborating," Aldebert told reporters.

The debacle further rattled an already nervous banking sector and has fueled a debate about risk management.

"If we can make profits in a matter of hours, we can also have huge losses," President Nicolas Sarkozy said during a visit to India. "We must stop with this system that has gone haywire and that has lost track of its aim."

He added: "It appears to be time to ... inject a bit of common sense into all these systems."

French officials said the trader had been dealing with more than $73.3 billion. That figure outstrips the bank's market capitalization of $52.6 billion, and is close to the annual GDP of entire nations such as Slovakia, Qatar or Libya.

It remains unclear whether Kerviel's actions, if proved, were motivated by malevolence, ambition or some other reason. Three union officials representing Societe Generale employees said managers at the bank who briefed them about the fraud told them Kerviel was having family problems.

Acquaintances described Kerviel as reserved and considerate, a young man who once taught children judo and held the door for elderly neighbors.

Experts and others including France's prime minister have questioned whether a single futures trader could have managed such large sums. Some have suggested Societe Generale might have used Kerviel as a scapegoat for other losses.

Paris prosecutors are conducting a preliminary investigation based on three complaints: one by the bank accusing Kerviel of fraud, and two by small shareholders.

In an interview published Saturday, Societe Generale's chief executive, Daniel Bouton, dismissed the notion that the bank's actions helped fuel the turmoil on world markets.

"It's absurd!" Bouton told Le Figaro daily in an interview published Saturday. "Anyone could calculate our contribution to the market in recent days."

Bouton said Kerviel had been betting throughout 2007 that markets would fall—a winning position. But the trader overstepped his authority and wagered much more money than he should have, Bouton said.

AP

Financial Police headquarters is seen in Paris, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008.

Chavez: Pull reserves from US

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez urged his Latin American allies on Saturday to begin withdrawing billions of dollars in international reserves from U.S. banks, warning of a looming U.S. economic crisis.

Chavez made the suggestion as he hosted a summit aimed at boosting Latin American integration and rolling back U.S. influence.

"We should start to bring our reserves here," Chavez said. "Why does that money have to be in the north? ... You can't put all your eggs in one basket."

To help pool resources within the region, Chavez and other leaders launched a new development bank at the summit of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Nations of Our America, or ALBA.

The left-leaning regional trade alliance first proposed by Chavez is intended to offer an alternative, socialist path to integration while snubbing U.S.-backed free-trade deals.

Chavez noted that U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visited Colombia in recent days, saying "that has to do with this summit."

"The empire doesn't accept alternatives," Chavez told the gathering, attended by the presidents of Bolivia and Nicaragua and Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage.

Chavez warned that U.S. "imperialism is entering into a crisis that can affect all of us" and said Latin America "will save itself alone."

Rice left Colombia on Friday after a trip aimed at reviving a free trade deal that has stalled in the U.S. Congress. She sidestepped an opportunity to confront Chavez, who accused Colombia and the United States of plotting "military aggression" against Venezuela.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Caterpillar affirms 2008 outlook

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP)—Construction-equipment maker and economic bellwether Caterpillar Inc. said Friday that it expects resilient overseas economies to drive strong sales and profit growth this year, even as the United States teeters toward recession. The company said its fourth-quarter earnings rose 11 percent on strong international sales, helped along by a weak U.S. dollar that makes American products more affordable. Peoria, Ill.-based Caterpillar's earnings report followed similar, good-new-, bad-news reports from other major manufacturers this month, all of them struggling at home but riding a wave of growth abroad. The company earned $975 million, or $1.50 per share, compared with $882 million, or $1.32 per share a year earlier. Revenue rose 10 percent to $12.14 billion from $11 billion in the prior-year period.

Countrywide earnings eyed before deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Investor concerns that Bank of America Corp. might try to pull out or pay less for Countrywide Financial Corp. could intensify next week when the troubled mortgage lender reports 2007 year-end financial results. After posting a $1.2 billion loss in the third quarter ended Sept. 30—its first quarterly loss in 25 years - Countrywide declared it would post a profit for 2007's final three months and through this year. Wall Street has its doubts—most analysts expect Countrywide to post a fourth-quarter loss—and will be watching closely Tuesday when the Calabasas-based company reports its results. Investors will be looking for signs that suggest worsening fortunes at the nation's largest mortgage lender—and a possible about-face by Bank of America. "Bank of America is going to take a close look at Countrywide's business and see ... whether or not it is able to get value from the purchase," said Sean Egan, managing director of independent ratings firm Egan-Jones Ratings Co.

Wall Street's tumultuous week ends down

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street ended a tumultuous week with a sharp decline Friday, backtracking following two days of stunning gains as investors turned cautious and cashed in some of their winnings. The Dow Jones industrial average still managed to record its first weekly advance of 2008, even as it fell more than 170 points on the day. The week, which started with a 465-point drop in the Dow soon after the market opened Tuesday, showed that the stock market is still fractious but may be going through healthy process of trying to establish a bottom following weeks of sharp declines. Investors had an initial burst of enthusiasm Friday, sending each of the major indexes up more than 1 percent, after upbeat profit reports from big names like Microsoft Corp. and word of a possible buyout of a trouble bond insurer. But the advance proved short-lived and the eventual decline wasn't surprising given that investors putting down bets ahead of the weekend were coming off two days of big gains - including 400 points in the Dow.

Rebates could come by May

WASHINGTON (AP)—Most taxpayers could expect a rebate of up to $600 starting in mid-May under the economic aid plan set to go through Congress within weeks.

Couples could get twice as much, with even more for most families with children. All that, however, depends on smooth sailing at the Internal Revenue Service, and the agency already is up to its eyeballs in filings and refunds.

The Treasury Department says that despite the strains of tax filing season, the IRS will be able to begin delivering the payments within 60 days after President Bush signs the plan into law, and complete the process in approximately 10 weeks, possibly sooner. The payments would come separately from regular tax refunds.

"The IRS has already begun trying to prepare for this," said Andrew DeSouza, a Treasury spokesman. "They'll be ready to go."

But figuring out if you qualify—and for how much—can be complicated, thanks to confusing rules designed to get the money to middle-income workers and ensure it also benefits low-income people who are most likely to spend the cash.

"Almost everyone who earns income will receive some benefit," said Douglas W. Elmendorf, an analyst at the Brookings Institution. "The idea is to target the money on the people who will spend a large share of it, and to target it on people who are likely to be hurt by an economic downturn."

People who do not make enough to pay taxes but had at least $3,000 in earned income would get $300. Those earning less than that would be disqualified, as would the wealthiest. Older people living solely off Social Security checks would not get the rebate.

Japan, Denmark set new climate goals

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—The United States, China and India must be part of the follow-up treaty to the Kyoto Protocol and agree to cut carbon emissions, Denmark's prime minister said Saturday. Japan's leader offered them a bold strategy for doing it.

Climate change returned to the fore at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting, where Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda proposed a 2020 deadline for countries to boost their energy efficiency by 30 percent. He added that Japan would try to spread its high-quality environmental technology around the world.

Fukuda said the U.S., China and India alone can cut an amount of CO_2 emissions equal to the total amount Japan releases into the atmosphere each year, if only they match his country's efficiency for power plants.

"The most efficient use of energy is now an obligation upon humanity," Fukuda told the meeting of 2,500 business and political leaders. "The whole world must make efforts to maximize the improvement of energy efficiency."

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, whose country will host a key climate meeting in December 2009, told The Associated Press that the goal of the meeting was clear: getting the U.S., China and India to participate in the follow-up treaty to Kyoto, which expires in 2012.

The exemption of developing nations from the Kyoto Protocol's mandatory caps has long been a key complaint of American opponents to the U.N. climate treaty process.

The 1997 pact requires 36 industrial nations to reduce carbon dioxide and other industrial, transportation and agricultural gases blamed for global warming by an average 5 percent below 1990 levels in the next five years.

Nation

Obama wins in SC, regaining momentum

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Barack Obama routed Hillary Rodham Clinton in the racially charged South Carolina primary Saturday night, regaining campaign momentum in the prelude to a Feb. 5 coast-to-coast competition for more than 1,600 Democratic National Convention delegates.

"The choice in this election is not about regions or religions or genders," Obama said at a boisterous victory rally. "It's not about rich versus poor, young versus old and it's not about black versus white. It's about the past versus the future."

The audience chanted "Race doesn't matter" as it awaited Obama to make his appearance after rolling up 55 percent of the vote in a three-way race.

But it did, in a primary that shattered turnout records.

About half the voters were black, according to polling place interviews, and four out of five of them supported Obama. Black women turned out in particularly large numbers. Obama, the first-term Illinois senator, got about a quarter of the white vote while Clinton and former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina split the rest.

Clinton flew to Nashville as the polls closed, and looked ahead. "Now the eyes of the country turn to Tennessee and the other states voting on Feb. 5," she said, adding "millions and millions of Americans are going to have their voices heard."

Edwards finished a distant third, a sharp setback in the state where he was born and scored a primary victory in his first presidential campaign four years ago.

AP

Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., responds to a warm welcome from the audience as he approaches the microphone during a rally in Columbia, S.C. Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008.

Even so, he vowed to remain in the race, his goal, he said, to "give voice to all those whose voices aren't being heard."

The victory was Obama's first since he won the kickoff Iowa caucuses on Jan. 3. Clinton, a New York senator and former first lady, scored an upset in the New Hampshire primary a few days later. They split the Nevada caucuses, she winning the turnout race, he gaining a one-delegate margin. In an historic race, she hopes to become the first woman to occupy the White House, and Obama is the strongest black contender in history.

Bush pushing Congress on stimulus plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush appealed on Saturday for swift congressional action on an economic rescue initiative and an electronic surveillance law that soon expires.

The White House and House leaders of both parties reached agreement on a simply drawn stimulus program, which would provide tax rebate checks to 117 million families and give businesses $50 billion in incentives to invest in new plants and equipment. In his weekly radio address, Bush asked Congress to approve the agreement as soon as possible.

Some in the Senate, which will take up the measure after it goes to the House floor next week, have signaled that they want to broaden the bill. Democrats there want such things as an unemployment benefits extension, an increase in home heating subsidies or higher food stamp benefits. Bush suggested they could derail the whole effort, and he warned against it.

"While I understand the desire to add provisions from both the left and the right, it would be a mistake to undermine this important bipartisan agreement," the president said. "By working together, we can provide our economy with a shot in the arm when we need it most."

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., said Saturday: "The White House's cooperation with Congress in recent days is long, long overdue. And it's encouraging. But let's hope it is habit-forming."

But Dorgan, delivering the Democrats' weekly radio address, added: "We need to do so much, much more. We need to fix the bigger economic issues that threaten our country's future."

Among those issues, Dorgan said, are the cost of the war in Iraq, the mortgage crisis and the trade deficit.

Disabled spy satellite threatens Earth

WASHINGTON (AP)—A large U.S. spy satellite has lost power and could hit the Earth in late February or early March, government officials said Saturday.

The satellite, which no longer can be controlled, could contain hazardous materials, and it is unknown where on the planet it might come down, they said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the information is classified as secret. It was not clear how long ago the satellite lost power, or under what circumstances.

"Appropriate government agencies are monitoring the situation," said Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the National Security Council, when asked about the situation after it was disclosed by other officials. "Numerous satellites over the years have come out of orbit and fallen harmlessly. We are looking at potential options to mitigate any possible damage this satellite may cause."

He would not comment on whether it is possible for the satellite to perhaps be shot down by a missile. He said it would be inappropriate to discuss any specifics at this time.

A senior government official said that lawmakers and other nations are being kept apprised of the situation.

The spacecraft contains hydrazine—which is rocket fuel—according to a government official who was not authorized to speak publicly but spoke on condition of anonymity. Hydrazine, a colorless liquid with an ammonia-like odor, is a toxic chemical and can cause harm to anyone who contacts it.

Such an uncontrolled re-entry could risk exposure of U.S. secrets, said John Pike, a defense and intelligence expert. Spy satellites typically are disposed of through a controlled re-entry into the ocean so that no one else can access the spacecraft, he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

3 skiers killed in avalanches near LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As a fierce storm barreled toward Southern California on Saturday, searchers found the body of a third avalanche victim and rescued a missing snowboarder who survived a frigid night in the San Gabriel Mountains. Taking advantage of a lull in a week of storms, searchers found the body of Christopher Allport, one of two people reported missing Friday near the Mountain High ski resort in Wrightwood. The other person, Oscar Gonzales Jr., 24, was found Saturday after spending the night on the mountain. Officials were "confident that there's no one else that's been missing" and called off search efforts, Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy Luis Castro said. Allport, 60, was confirmed dead by someone at his family home who declined to give her name. A character actor who has appeared on such TV shows as "ER," "Felicity," and "Matlock," Allport wrote a story that appeared in the Los Angeles Times in 2004 about the pleasures and dangers of backcountry skiing. "Any excursion into the mountains requires awareness," he wrote. "Have fun, but be careful."

Future chefs learn how to cut trans fat

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—The movement to ban artery-clogging trans fats from food has a new venue: cooking schools. The places that train the people who will someday be feeding the rest of us are cutting back or eliminating artificial trans fats from their classrooms, saying they have a responsibility to teach students how to cook healthy foods. "It's a very welcome change," said John O'Connell, 19, a sophomore culinary arts student at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, one of the nation's largest cooking schools. The school has started phasing out trans fats in its restaurants, hotels and dining services on four campuses around the country, and plans to be trans fat-free by the fall semester. "We have made sure that we do the right thing," said Karl J. Guggenmos, dean of culinary education.

FBI: Woman sought hit man on Craigslist

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A woman advertised on the popular Internet site Craigslist for an assassin to kill the wife of a man with whom she'd had an affair, authorities said Saturday. The ad by Ann Marie Linscott, 49, was posted in November as a generic request for somebody to perform a "freelance" job, court document said. Her true intention was only communicated to those who e-mailed her seeking additional information about the job, the Craigslist CEO said. Linscott offered $5,000 for the hit, had the name and work address of the woman she wanted dead and she described successful candidates as "silent assassins," according to agents and court documents. "I've seen some screwy things, but I've personally never heard of anything like this," said Drew Parenti, special agent in charge of the Sacramento FBI office. "For a person to advertise openly for a hit man on Craigslist." Agents arrested Linscott, whom they say went by Ann Marie and used the simple alias "Marie," on Thursday at her home in Grand Rapids, Mich. Federal prosecutors will ask a judge on Tuesday to make her stand trial in Northern California, where Butte County authorities worked with the FBI to identify the victim and her husband.

'Do Not Deliver' list would bar papers

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—Connie Finch doesn't read a newspaper, but she picks up plenty each morning. At least one free newspaper is dropped at the end of her driveway each day, and she picks up more newspapers left by her neighbors.

All of them end up in the garbage.

"We're not asking for it," Finch said. "And it's just littering our streets."

Complaints from the Westminster resident Finch and others about free home-delivery newspapers in Maryland have inspired State Del. Tanya Shewell to propose a "Do Not Deliver" registry that would work similarly to the "Do Not Call" registry for telemarketers. If approved, would be the first of its kind in the nation.

Shewell said her constituents complain that they're just ignored when they call a newspaper asking that delivery be stopped. She said people can't stop deliveries even when they leave town, meaning papers are left around as an invitation to burglars. The newspapers often litter roadsides and storm drains.

"I love free newspapers. We're not trying to hurt the business of the newspapers," Shewell said. "All we're asking is for them to stop delivering to people who ask them to stop. People don't know where to call. They don't know how to stop it."

The complaints started soon after the 2006 launch of The Baltimore Examiner, a free paper which delivers about 230,000 of its total 250,000 circulation to Maryland homes six days a week, making it the state's largest daily.

"I started getting calls from people who called numerous times and were promised it would stop, and it didn't," Shewell said. "They're trashing up our community."

Asia

Pakistan says nuclear assets are safe

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's nuclear weapons are safe from Taliban and al-Qaida militants because of the military's stringent security system and a political climate that precludes a takeover by religious extremists, a top official said Saturday.

Seeking to dispel international concerns amid increased violence, Khalid Kidwai, head of the Strategic Plans Division which handles Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, said Pakistan uses 10,000 soldiers to keep the weapons safe and has received up to $10 million in U.S. assistance to that end.

"There's no conceivable scenario, political or violent, in which Pakistan will fall to extremists of the al-Qaida or Taliban type," Kidwai told foreign journalists at a briefing. "Pakistan's nuclear weapons, fissile material and infrastructure are absolutely safe and secure."

Kidwai, a retired general, said his division was prepared for any contingency and had reassessed the militant threat in light of escalating attacks on security forces and intelligence personnel. He said he had received no information of a terrorist plot against nuclear facilities.

Pakistan, which acquired its nuclear technology secretly and outside international oversight, tested its atom bomb in 1998 in response to a test by India, its historical rival and neighbor.

Worries over Pakistan's nuclear security deepened when the chief scientist behind its uranium enrichment program, A. Q. Khan, was exposed in early 2004 as having sold sensitive technology to Iran, North Korea and Libya.

Khan, the scientist who became a national hero for his role in developing Pakistan's atomic bomb, remains under house detention. Pakistan insists the government was unaware of his dealings, but it refuses to allow foreign investigators to question him in person.

Pakistan has since instituted a command and control system to prevent a repeat, but new security questions arise as Taliban fighters expand their reach beyond the Afghan border and al-Qaida reportedly regroups.

Media reports have said the Pentagon has contingency plans for seizing Pakistan's nuclear facilities if they ever fall into the hands of Islamic extremists. Kidwai called it "irresponsible talk" and said the United States would not succeed in such an operation.

Kidwai spoke as residents in northwestern Pakistan fled their homes a day after security forces there began pounding militants' hideouts, killing 30 suspected militants, officials and residents said Saturday. Authorities blamed the militants for hijacking four truckloads of military supplies earlier this week.

The fighting marked the first time the violence has spread to Dara Adam Khel, a town on a key road linking Peshawar with the battlefields of Waziristan, a lawless region regarded as a stronghold for Taliban and al-Qaida.

His candid briefing came at the prompting of President Pervez Musharraf, a key U.S. ally under increasing political pressure at home because of his repressive maneuvering to stay in power.

Foreign diplomats were briefed on Pakistan's safety measures earlier this month, and Western military officials have expressed confidence in the steps Pakistan has taken.

Kidwai said that after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks the U.S. offered to share its "best practices" in nuclear security, and as a result Pakistan accepted $8-10 million dollars in U.S. aid to improve nuclear security and for training.

HAVING A BALL AT BAYWALK AP

A small boy struggles to climb a steel mooring at Manila's promenade area, the Baywalk, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, in Manila, Philippines

Taiwan's presidential candidates kick off campaigns

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's presidential candidates kicked off their campaigns Sunday for elections scheduled for March 22, with both the ruling and opposition parties calling for improved ties with rival China.

Escorted by party heavyweights, Ma Ying-jeou of the opposition Nationalist Party signed up for the poll with the Central Election Commission. Frank Hsieh of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, accompanied by flag-waving supporters, registered minutes later.

"We will strive to create a prosperous and peaceful cross-Strait relationship while maintaining our dignity," Ma told supporters when opening his campaign headquarters in Taipei after registering.

"We will negotiate with Beijing on those issues and strive for the best development for Taiwan," he said.

Ma reiterated his party's stance not to formalize the island's de facto independence nor negotiate with Beijing about unification when Taiwanese remain wary about the communist regime.

Early this month, Ma's party trounced the DPP in a legislative poll widely seen as a referendum on President Chen Shui-bian's policies of confronting Beijing and distancing the self-governed island from China both politically and economically.

Voters used their ballots to repudiate Chen, noting his policies could cause the island to lose its global competitiveness and hurt its once-vibrant economy.

Taiwan and China split amid civil war in 1949, but China still maintains the island is part of its own territory to be unified eventually.

Analysts say the opposition's landslide win could give Ma substantial momentum for his presidential campaign.

Hsieh, meanwhile, pledged to build a clean government and prop up the island's slowing economy.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Plane missing over Borneo; 3 feared dead

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A small cargo plane disappeared and apparently crashed Saturday during a short flight over Borneo island, and all three people aboard were feared dead, an airline spokesman said. The CASA-212 plane was last seen at 9:35 a.m. local time and a radio signal indicating it had crashed was detected four hours later, Ramli Siregar of the Dirgantara Air Service airline told El-Shinta radio. The signal indicated that the plane, which took off from Juwata airport in the town of Tarakan, might have crashed in a dense jungle area in Indonesian territory on the island, he said. The plane was flying to a small airport in the town of Malinau, about 75 miles west of Tarakan. Indonesia, Malaysia and Borneo all administer parts of Borneo, the world's third-largest island.

Jets bomb Tamil rebels' naval center

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan air force jets bombed the Tamil Tiger rebels' naval headquarters Saturday while the group's sea wing leaders were holding a meeting there, the military said. Pilots confirmed hitting the base near Puthukudiyiruppu village in rebel-held Mullaitivu district but did not provide any details about any damage, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said. The base was bombed because officials had received information that the sea wing leaders were meeting there, Nanayakkara said. Earlier, a defense official said the rebels' powerful naval chief, known as Soosai, was at the base during the bombing. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing government rules. Nanayakkara said, however, that Soosai's presence was possible but had not been confirmed. The Tigers did not immediately comment on the government's claims.

Bill Gates gives US$19.9 million grant to Philippine-based rice research facility

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A foundation run by Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife will provide a US$19.9 million (€13.6 million) grant to develop rice varieties that will benefit 400,000 small farmers in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, the Philippine-based International Rice Research Institute said Friday. Gates announced the donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as part of a package of agricultural development grants during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, IRRI said in a statement issued in Manila. The money will be used to develop and distribute over three years rice varieties that can withstand drought, floods and salty water in rain-fed ecosystems where farmers have little or no access to irrigation. Such conditions reduce yields, harm livelihoods, and foster hunger and malnutrition, it said. The grant is part of a US$306 million (€208 million) package that nearly doubles the foundation's investments in agriculture since it launched its agricultural development initiative in mid-2006, the statement said. "If we are serious about ending extreme hunger and poverty around the world, we must be serious about transforming agriculture for small farmers—most of whom are women," Gates was quoted as saying.

New Taliban chief entering limelight

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Sometime in mid-December, as the winter winds howled across the snow-dusted hills of Pakistan's inhospitable border regions, 40 men representing Taliban groups all across Pakistan's northwest frontier came together to unify under a single banner and to choose a leader.

The banner was Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or the Taliban Movement of Pakistan, with a fighting force estimated at up to 40,000. And the leader was Baitullah Mehsud, the man Pakistan accuses of murdering former prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

The move is an attempt to present a united front against the Pakistani army, which has been fighting insurgents along the border with Afghanistan. It is also the latest sign of the rise of Mehsud, considered the deadliest of the Taliban mullahs or clerics in northwest Pakistan.

Mehsud is based in the rugged, heavily treed mountains of South Waziristan, one of Pakistan's so-called tribal areas on the border with Afghanistan, where Western intelligence says al-Qaida is regrouping. His organization has claimed responsibility, often backed up by videos, for killing and kidnapping hundreds of soldiers, beheading women and burning schools that teach girls anything other than religion. He also claims he has a steady supply of suicide bombers and strong ties to al-Qaida.

"Al-Qaida has succeeded in building a base in the last two or three years mostly with help from Mehsud," said Ahmed Zaidan, a reporter for Al-Jazeera Television in Qatar who interviewed Mehsud three weeks ago.

American woman kidnapped in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Gunmen kidnapped a burqa-clad American aid worker and her driver in southern Afghanistan's largest city early Saturday, the latest in a series of kidnappings of foreigners in the troubled country.

Cyd Mizell, who worked in Kandahar for the Asian Rural Life Development Foundation, was snatched from a residential neighborhood as she was on her way to work. Jeff Palmer, the aid group's international director, said the group had not been contacted by the kidnappers and that he did not know their identity or demands.

Asadullah Khalid, the provincial governor, blamed the kidnappings on the "enemy of Islam and the enemy of Afghanistan." Khalid said the 49-year-old American was wearing a burqa when she was seized.

Several foreigners—including 23 South Koreans, two German construction workers and two Italian journalists—have been kidnapped in Afghanistan in the last year, but kidnappings of Americans are rare. An American civilian was briefly abducted in Kabul in April 2005 but escaped by throwing himself from a moving car.

A professor at Kandahar University, Mohammad Gul, said Mizell taught English at the university and gave embroidery lessons at a girl's school.

Gul said she speaks the local language, Pashtu, well and that if Afghans asked about her background she would say she was from the Alakozai tribe—a well known Pashtun tribe in the Kandahar region.

"She is a very patient and calm woman," Gul said. "She was always thinking about Afghanistan's future."

World

Habash, prominent PLO figure, dies at 81

AP

Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasser Arafat, right, raises his hands in a salute to delegates, with Libyan leader Colonel Moammar Gadhafi, center, and PLO leader George Habash, at the Arab Nations Summit in Tripoli, Libya, on Dec. 4, 1977.

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—George Habash, whose radical PLO faction gained notoriety after the simultaneous hijackings of four Western airliners in 1970 and the seizure of an Air France flight to Entebbe, Uganda, died Saturday in Jordan. He was 81.

The former guerrilla leader, whose rivalry with Yasser Arafat spurred him to start the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, died of a heart attack in Amman, said Leila Khaled, a longtime PFLP member.

Born to a Christian Arab family, Habash opposed Arab-Israeli peace talks. His group was the second-largest in the PLO after Fatah, the faction of Arafat and current Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Abbas called Habash a "historic leader," declared a three-day mourning period and ordered flags to fly at half-staff. Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas leader in Gaza, said Habash "spent his life defending Palestine." Gazans fired guns into the air as news of his death spread late Saturday.

Habash and his group gained notoriety for the 1970 hijackings of four Western airliners over the United States, Europe, the Far East and the Persian Gulf. The aircraft were blown up in the Middle East after passengers and crews disembarked.

Habash promoted the Palestinian cause through terrorist attacks in the 1970s, including the hijacking of an Air France airliner to Entebbe, Uganda, where four civilians were killed during a rescue operation by Israeli paratroopers.

The group also was responsible for gunning down 27 people at Israel's Lod airport in May 1972. And it was credited with one of the first Palestinian hijackings, of an Israeli El Al flight from Rome to Tel Aviv in 1968. PFLP gunmen ordered it flown to Algeria, but no one was hurt.

Habash did not mastermind the attacks, but he became a prime target for Israel's secret service.

An uncompromising revolutionary, particularly after the Arabs' catastrophic defeat by Israel in 1967, he refused to unconditionally ally himself with any Arab regime, unlike many of his contemporaries.

Among the last of the old-guard Palestinian leaders, Habash, a pediatrician, was known by his followers as "al-Hakim"—Arabic for doctor.

Habash fled his hometown of Lydda, in what is now Israel, in 1948 and went on to graduate first in his 1951 class at the American University of Beirut. He launched the Popular Front in December 1967, six months after the Arabs lost the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights to Israel.

The current deputy secretary-general of the PFLP, Abdel Raheem Mallouh, called Habash a "distinguished leader...who struggled for more than 60 years without a stop for the rights and the interests of his people."

Gadhafi's son said tied to Iraq attack

BAGHDAD (AP)—A son of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is behind a group of foreign and Iraqi fighters responsible for this week's devastating explosion in northern Iraq, a security chief for Sunni tribesmen who rose up against al-Qaida said Saturday.

At least 38 people were killed and 225 wounded last Wednesday when a huge blast destroyed about 50 buildings in a Mosul slum. The next day, a suicide bomber killed the provincial police chief and two other officers as they surveyed the blast site.

Col. Jubair Rashid Naief, who also is a police official in Anbar province, said those attacks were carried out by the Seifaddin Regiment, made up of about 150 foreign and Iraqi fighters who slipped into the country several months ago from Syria.

Naief said the regiment, which is working with al-Qaida in Iraq, was supported by Seif al-Islam Gadhafi, 36, the eldest son of the Libyan leader.

"I am sure of what I am talking about, and it is documented," Naief said, adding that he was "100 percent sure" of the younger Gadhafi's role with the terror group.

A man who answered the phone at Gadhafi's office in Tripoli said Gadhafi was not immediately available for comment on the accusation.

Naief told The Associated Press his information about the Seifaddin Regiment and the younger Gadhafi's purported role came from "reliable sources" maintained by his Anbar Awakening Council within the ranks of al-Qaida in Mosul and elsewhere.

He said the information was passed to the U.S. military two or three months ago.

Death toll in latest Kenya clashes at 25

NAKURU, Kenya (AP)—Men sobbed as police unloaded 16 charred bodies at a mortuary in this western Kenyan city. People with machete and arrow wounds overwhelmed the main hospital and were forced to share beds. Hundreds of homeless took shelter at a church.

And even as Nakuru struggled to recover from an explosion of political violence, there were signs Saturday that it was far from over. Those whose homes were burned vowed revenge. Gunshots rang out, and youths with sticks manned roadblocks.

At least 25 people were killed when the turmoil over Kenya's deeply flawed presidential election finally reached Nakuru, the country's fourth-largest city that had largely been spared the unrest. Men fought street battles with homemade guns, machetes and bow and arrows, while mobs torched hundreds of homes.

At the city mortuary, police wearing rubber gloves unloaded 16 burned bodies. Men standing by broke down in tears.

"I have never experienced this in my country," one man said, his face marked with grief. "I just pray that our leaders end this thing immediately."

Riots and ethnic fighting following the Dec. 27 vote have killed more than 700 people nationwide and forced 255,000 from their homes.

Much of the violence has pitted ethnic groups who support the opposition against President Mwai Kibaki's Kikuyu tribe, long dominant in Kenyan politics and the economy. Opposition leader Raila Odinga accuses Kibaki of stealing the election, and local and foreign observers have said the vote tally was rigged.

Kibaki and Odinga remain far apart on the question of who won the election. Both men are under international pressure to find a way to share power. But Odinga is insisting that new elections are the only way to restore peace.

Border town united by Gaza border breach

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Divided by a twist of history 26 years ago, this remote town straddling the Gaza-Egypt border has been reunited in just as haphazard a fashion.

After the towering border wall slicing through Rafah was toppled earlier this week, long-separated relatives, friends and even former soccer buddies just had to walk a few yards to embrace and reminisce.

Some even dared to make plans for an uncertain future: One large Palestinian clan quickly married off four women to relatives on the Egyptian side. "How can we leave the other side? We were always one place," said Kamal al-Nahal, 40, an uncle of one of the brides.

But almost three decades of separation have also produced marked differences in customs, building styles and dialect. Al-Nahal said he wasn't exactly impressed with Egyptian Rafah which, with mudbrick buildings and unpaved streets, has more of a village feel than its larger, bustling counterpart of multi-story apartment buildings on the Gaza side.

About 40,000 people live on the Egyptian side and about 200,000 in Gaza's Rafah, which includes both the original town and an adjacent refugee camp. Those on the Egyptian side are mostly of Palestinian origin, but their Arabic often has more of an Egyptian dialect.

Rafah was bisected in 1982 to accommodate land claims negotiated as part of the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement. While suddenly holding different citizenship, residents of both sectors could cross the border with relative ease for several years.

WORLD BRIEFS

Davos tests Zuma's African leadership

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—Jacob Zuma, who survived rape and corruption charges to become the president-in-waiting of South Africa, has harsh words for Kenya and Nigeria, where recent elections were marred by alleged fraud, violence and disputed results. "What has happened in Kenya I think is absolutely not right," Zuma said Saturday in an AP interview. "It does not help to advance the case for the African continent." Of last year's Nigerian election, won by the governing party and condemned by observers as deeply flawed, he said: "It's not a good example if you've got the kind of infrastructure or method that allowed that kind of thing." He also said he was hopeful for a fair election in Zimbabwe—where on Friday President Robert Mugabe set national elections for March 29 despite opposition calls for more time to prepare and reform—and promised to continue South Africa's efforts to mediate between Mugabe and the opposition. That is Zuma at Davos: a man trying to project stability and seriousness and dissolve concerns about his readiness to govern a country that may not have the most people in Africa—that's Nigeria—but is looked to by millions on the troubled continent for leadership.

Gunmen in Guyana kill 5 kids, 6 adults

LUSIGNAN, Guyana (AP)—Gunmen stormed into a coastal village Saturday and killed 11 people, including five children, in violence blamed on a gang leader who has threatened widespread attacks. The assault sparked angry protests over rising crime in this impoverished country. The killings in Lusignan came hours after gunmen attacked police headquarters in the capital, firing indiscriminately and wounding two guards. Police and government officials say they suspect a criminal gang led by Rondell Rawlins is behind the violence. Rawlins accused security forces of kidnapping his pregnant 18-year-old girlfriend earlier this week and authorities said he threatened to carry out attacks until she is found. Guyana, an English-speaking South American country, has struggled with violent crime fueled by drugs and gun trafficking, and is known as the site of the 1978 Jonestown mass-suicide and killings led by the American cult leader Jim Jones.

Egypt takes offers for nuclear project

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Egypt will begin taking bids in February to build the country's first nuclear reactor, the state-run news agency reported Saturday. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced plans for the nuclear power project last year, saying it would diversify Egypt's energy resources and preserve the country's oil and gas. He said the reactor would be for peaceful, power-generating purposes only and that Egypt would not seek a nuclear bomb. The project is expected to cost between $1.5 billion and $1.8 billion. "The type of reactor and its constructor will be chosen according to international safety standards and reputation as well as costs," MENA quoted Abdel Mohsen Morsi Metwalli, director of nuclear engineering at Alexandria University, as saying. "The offer is open to all countries."

Health & Fitness

Raise your heart rate, not your neighbors' blood pressure

By VICKY HALLETT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Q. Since it's gotten colder, I'd like to exercise indoors, but I'm on the second floor of an apartment building and I can't go thumping and bumping around without my downstairs neighbors getting annoyed. Between money and time constraints, a gym is out. Any suggestions for how I can get moving without freezing or noise violations?

A. Getting busted by the cops for aerobicizing too vigorously would make you my hero. But to keep your record clean, let's skip the jumping jacks. Even with your feet firmly planted on the floor, you can still work every muscle in your body, including the heart, promises Mike Everts, founder of the FIT Personal Training Gymnasium in Washington.

When one of his clients faced a similar predicament, Everts devised an exhausting abs circuit, and there was never a peep of complaint from the neighbors below. Like the Santa of fitness, Everts hauls a bunch of toys with him that you might find useful. In addition to such standards as resistance bands and stability balls, his new favorite is a suspension system that hooks into a door jamb, allowing users to leverage their body weight to engage several muscle groups simultaneously. But there's only one gizmo you really need: a mat. With that, you can get away with stuff like lunges.

Then, find moves you can string together without stopping. "You can do resistance training to get your heart rate up," Everts explains. He has a few exercises to get you going, starting with the squat and reach, which is what it sounds like: Squat, then straighten up and reach your arms to the ceiling. Then arm-chop, by clasping your hands together, reaching toward one shoulder and then powerfully coming down to the opposite hip. Or if you have a pair of dumbbells, do lateral arm extensions. "You bring your arms up like a snow angel," Everts explains. Just be sure to put down any weights gently, or you're asking for trouble.

Q. Running lately has caused me to develop painful shin splints. I am running outside on asphalt, not concrete. But every time, I am forced to slow my pace and can't figure out how to alleviate this problem. More water? Give myself a break? I haven't had this problem since high school.

A. I'm guessing you have a definition for shin splints—probably something along the lines of "%!#&! agony all along the front of the leg below the knee during running." And that puts you a step ahead of the medical profession. It may be a common problem, but "what exactly shin splints is hasn't been pinned down," explains Julie Gilchrist, a physician and epidemiologist with the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

There are lots of suspected causes: lack of experience, excessive running, inadequate warm-up, uneven terrain and even such factors as time of day and weather conditions. But none of these has been proved, making it hard to suggest solutions. "You either figure out how to fix it, or not," Gilchrist says.

One popular belief is that the pain stems from pronation of the foot. So consider your shoes. Do you have enough shock protection? Are your sneakers reaching retirement age (about six months, if you've been using them regularly)? Play a little guess and check, listen to your body's cues and hopefully you can find a way to keep up your hobby for the long run.

Q. I am a 55-year-old paramedic and spend a lot of time lifting people far larger than my 180-pound weight. Last year I developed bilateral epicondylitis — tennis elbow, to you. I went through physical therapy, was pronounced sound, went back to work, and now the tennis elbow is back. What exercises can I do to strengthen my arms and compensate for this chronic condition?

A. You may toss around medical jargon impressively, but it sounds as if your stretcher-lugging technique could use some work, says Tim McCullough, a physical therapist with D.C.'s Sport (plus) Spinal Physical Therapy. Building more arm strength won't help, at least not while you're on the job and continuing to repetitively stress the same muscle. "If you're already ticking it off by overusing it, you may end up overwhelming it with exercise," McCullough explains.

A better bet is to get someone to examine your lifting form. McCullough has a hunch you're always lifting with your palms facing down (when you should be lifting with palms up to reduce the strain on your tendons), and not taking full advantage of strength in the rest of your body. Just as tennis players must power up from their lower body to improve their swing, you need to think about lifting with your legs.

To manage the pain, try stretching. Here's a classic: Stick one arm straight in front of you and hang the palm down so it's facing your chest ("like you just dunked a basketball," McCullough says). Then take the other hand and apply pressure to the back of the first hand. Hold for 30 seconds.

Talk to a professional about your other options, which include wearing an elbow brace or even surgery.

Obesity surgery seen as diabetes cure

CHICAGO (AP)—A new study gives the strongest evidence yet that obesity surgery can cure diabetes. Patients who had surgery to reduce the size of their stomachs were five times more likely to see their diabetes disappear over the next two years than were patients who had standard diabetes care, according to Australian researchers.

Most of the surgery patients were able to stop taking diabetes drugs and achieve normal blood tests.

"It's the best therapy for diabetes that we have today, and it's very low risk," said the study's lead author, Dr. John Dixon of Monash University Medical School in Melbourne, Australia.

The patients had stomach band surgery, a procedure more common in Australia than in the United States, where gastric bypass surgery, or stomach stapling, predominates.

Gastric bypass is even more effective against diabetes, achieving remission in a matter of days or a month, said Dr. David Cummings, who wrote an accompanying editorial in the journal but was not involved in the study.

"We have traditionally considered diabetes to be a chronic, progressive disease," said Cummings of the University of Washington in Seattle. "But these operations really do represent a realistic hope for curing most patients."

Diabetes experts who read the study said surgery should be considered for some obese patients, but more research is needed to see how long results last and which patients benefit most. Surgery risks should be weighed against diabetes drug side effects and the long-term risks of diabetes itself, they said.

Experts generally agree that weight-loss surgery would never be appropriate for diabetics who are not obese, and current federal guidelines restrict the surgery to obese people.

The diabetes benefits of weight-loss surgery were known, but the Australian study in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association is the first of its kind to compare diabetes in patients randomly assigned to surgery or standard care. Scientists consider randomized studies to yield the highest-quality evidence.

The study involved 55 patients, so experts will be looking for results of larger experiments under way.

"Few studies really qualify as being a landmark study. This one is," said Dr. Philip Schauer, who was not involved in the Australian research but leads a Cleveland Clinic study that is recruiting 150 obese people with diabetes to compare two types of surgery and standard medical care.

"This opens an entirely new way of thinking about diabetes."

Obesity is a major risk factor for diabetes, and researchers are furiously pursuing reasons for the link as rates for both climb. What's known is that excess fat can cause the body's normal response to insulin to go haywire. Researchers are investigating insulin-regulating hormones released by fat and the role of fatty acids in the blood.

In the Australian study, all the patients were obese and had been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes during the past two years. Their average age was 47. Half the patients underwent a type of surgery called laparoscopic gastric banding, where an adjustable silicone cuff is installed around the upper stomach, limiting how much a person can eat.

Both groups lost weight over two years; the surgery patients lost 46 pounds on average, while the standard-care patients lost an average of 3 pounds.

Blood tests showed diabetes remission in 22 of the 29 surgery patients after two years. In the standard-care group, only four of the 26 patients achieved that goal. The patients who lost the most weight were the most likely to eliminate their diabetes.

Both patient groups learned about low-fat, high-fiber diets and were encouraged to exercise. Both groups could meet with a health professional every six weeks for two years.

The death rate for stomach band surgery, which can cost $17,000 to $20,000, is about 1 in 1,000. There were only minor complications in the study. Stomach stapling has a 2 percent death rate and costs $20,000 to $30,000.

In the United States, surgeons perform more than 100,000 obesity surgeries each year.

The American Diabetes Association is interested in the findings. The group revises its recommendations each fall, taking new research into account.

"There is a growing body of evidence that bariatric surgery is an effective tool for managing diabetes," said Dr. John Buse of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill, the association's president for medicine and science.

"It's just a question of how effective is it, for what spectrum of patients, over what period of time and at what cost? Not all those questions have been answered yet."

Medical devices used in the study were provided by the manufacturers, but the companies had no say over the study's design or its findings, Dixon said.

Life & Style

Miss Michigan crowned Miss America

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Miss Michigan Kirsten Haglund, a 19-year-old aspiring Broadway star, was crowned Miss America 2008 on Saturday in a live show billed as the unveiling of the 87-year-old pageant's new, hipper look.

AP

Miss Michigan Kirsten Haglund, second from right, reacts as she is named Miss America 2008 during the Miss America Pageant at the Planet Hollywood hotel and casino in Las Vegas, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008.

Haglund, of Farmington Hills, Mich., sang "Over the Rainbow" and walked a crowd-pleasing strut in a black and gold bikini to clinch the title. She beat Miss Indiana Nicole Elizabeth Rash, the first runner up, and Miss Washington Elyse Umemoto, the second runner up for the $50,000 scholarship and year of travel that comes with the crown.

Haglund, who studies music at the University of Cincinnati, grew up in a pageant family. Her mother is an active volunteer, and her grandmother Iora Hunt, competed for the crown as Miss Michigan 1944. Hunt joined Haglund at a news conference.

"The only words that come to my mind is that this is a dream come true, not just for me but for my family as well," Haglund said. "I'm not just standing up here alone."

Haglund, a cheery, classic blond, wore a revealing silver sequined dress and black bikini during the evening gown and swimsuit portions of the pageant. As her platform issue, she promised to advocate for awareness of eating disorders, an illness from which she has recovered.

The crowning at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip was aired for the first time on TLC. It capped a four-week reality series, "Miss America: Reality Check," which followed the contestants as they were pushed to shed the dated look of Miss Americas past and adopt a more updated style.

The show was the latest in a series of attempts to find an audience with a younger demographic after more than a decade of declining ratings.

The 52 newly made-over aspiring beauty queens who sought the top tiara sported updated hairdos, sassy attitudes and red carpet-worthy fashion throughout the competition.

Usually tame by modern TV standards, the swimwear competition kicked it up a notch. Most contestants wore black bikinis, and some struck provocative poses and twirled as the audience howled. Contestants also wore blue jeans and added a bit of humor to the traditional opening number, the parade of states.

Haglund's moves won howls from the audience. "I think for the audience, the swimwear and evening wear was much more entertaining, am I right?" Haglund said when asked about the show's new look.

The changes included a chance for "Reality Check" viewers to text message votes for their favorite contestant. Miss Utah, Jill Stevens, an Army medic who served in Afghanistan, was named "America's Choice."

Stevens did not make to the final 10, but she took the disappointment with pluck. She dropped and gave the audience push ups before joining the other losers on a riser on the side.

Producers added a twist to the interview portion, as well. They asked people on the street to pose questions, and the results were edgier than usual. Contestents were asked about binge drinking, HIV and Britney Spears' pregnant younger sister, Jamie Lynn.

"No I don't think she should be fired," Miss Indiana Nicole Elizabeth Rash said. "They're still people, they're still human beings. We all deserve second chances."

The long-struggling pageant had promised a new look for this year's beauty battle. "Entertainment Tonight" reporter Mark Steines was the master of ceremonies of the show. Clinton Kelly of TLC's hit "What Not to Wear" also helped with the hosting duties. Kelly had instructed the girls on how to update their looks during the reality show.

The pageant sounded different, too. A deejay spun dance music from turntables set up on stage. Contestants danced and waved to the audience during commercials breaks. The losers were seated on risers on one side of the stage, while the parents of the finalists, in black tie, were seated on the other.

The show was the latest in a series of attempts to find a new audience after more than a decade of declining ratings. The fading institution was dropped from network television in 2004. It spent a two-year stint on Country Music Television before being picked up last summer by TLC, a cable channel reaching 93 million homes in the U.S.

TLC added the pageant to its reality-TV stable, and announced plans to reinvent the look of the show and find an "It girl" ready for modern celebrity.

In addition to the $50,000 scholarship, Haglund will embark on a year of promoting the pageant, her platform issue and the Children's Miracle Network, a pageant partner.

AP

Kirsten Haglund celebrates after being crowned Miss America 2008 during the Miss America Pageant at the Planet Hollywood hotel and casino in Las Vegas, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008.

AP

Kirsten Haglund is crowned Miss America 2008 by former Miss America Lauren Nelson during the Miss America Pageant at the Planet Hollywood hotel and casino in Las Vegas, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008.

Jailed British rocker Gary Glitter considers settling in Hong Kong after release

HONG KONG (AP)—Former British glam rocker Gary Glitter said he is considering settling in Hong Kong after completing his jail sentence for molesting two girls in Vietnam, a local newspaper reported Sunday.

The 63-year-old rocker told his Vietnamese lawyer Le Thanh Kinh that he did not want to return to Britain because he would be listed on the country's sex offenders' register, the South China Morning Post reported.

Glitter, whose real name is Paul Francis Gadd, was convicted in March 2006 of committing "obscene acts with children." The incidents involved two Vietnamese girls, aged 10 and 11, from the southern coastal city of Vung Tau.

The Post said Glitter has asked about starting a new life in Hong Kong where there is no sex offenders' register to track his movements.

"He doesn't know where he will live if he is released but he has spoken to Mr Kinh about moving to Hong Kong," a friend of the lawyer was quoted as saying.

"He told Mr Kinh on one of his visits: 'It's a big city where I can go around without being noticed. But I'll be able to get English food there'."

Glitter was hospitalized early this month for diarrhea and a heart condition.

British embassy officials and Vietnamese prison authorities are in discussions over whether Glitter should be released during an annual prisoner amnesty just before the Lunar New Year, known as Tet, or under a sentence reduction on humanitarian grounds, the paper reported.

His three-year jail sentence was cut by three months for good behavior under Tet last year. He is due to complete his term in August.

He was convicted in Britain in 1999 of possessing child pornography, and served half of a four-month jail term.

He later went to Cambodia but was expelled from that country in 2002. Cambodian officials did not specify a crime or file charges against him.

Glitter hit his musical peak in the 1970s. His crowd-pleasing anthem "Rock and Roll (Part 2)" is still played at many sporting events.

Gladiators return to New Orleans suburb

CHALMETTE, La. (AP)—Hundreds of people braved the dreary weather Saturday to welcome home the Krewe of Gladiators—and mark another, modest milestone in this region's recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

The krewe paraded through the New Orleans suburb of St. Bernard Parish for the first time since Hurricane Katrina ruined many of the houses and businesses along its traditional route nearly 2 1/2 years ago.

This isn't the same community or same krewe.

Perhaps 30,000 of the 67,000 people who lived in this blue-collar parish before Katrina are back, said the parish president, and the krewe, traditionally a men's organization, went coed this year to fill out its storm-depleted ranks.

"It's been a booger trying to get back," krewe captain William Egan said several hours before the afternoon parade. "A lot of my members are still God knows where."

Rain and thunder ruined several parades in greater New Orleans on Friday, but lingering storm clouds didn't stop the Gladiators, or excited parade-goers, on Saturday.

Manuel Trevino, a 29-year-old iron worker and Chalmette native, parked his truck along the parade route and cracked open a cooler to tailgate with friends.

"It's like the Super Bowl," he said. "We're not going to stop just because it's raining."

Founded in 1973, Gladiators is the parish's oldest Carnival organization. Another krewe, the Knights of Nemesis, formed after Katrina and paraded in 2006, during the first post-storm Carnival.

Eleven floats with about 140 people, not counting several marching bands, made Gladiators a bit smaller than usual. Krewe members tossed beads from floats featuring the paper mache likenesses of Superman, Wonder Woman and Godzilla.

The words "We're Back," painted on one float, were the most obvious nod to Katrina.

Parish schools superintendent Doris Voitier and Chalmette High School Principal Wayne Warner were the grand marshals—a tribute to the leading role the schools have played in the parish's recovery.

St. Bernard schools had 340 students when they reopened in November 2005, and around 2,500 by the end of 2006.

Along the parade route, there were reminders of Katrina. The starting line was flanked by a storm-shuttered Italian bakery and a house with government-issued trailers in the front yard. There also was a newly opened restaurant nearby.

Parish President Craig Taffaro estimates about two-thirds of St. Bernard's businesses have reopened. "The recovery has been somewhat slow," he said, "but we're very hopeful that the pace will accelerate over the next year."

Joe Luparello, Sr., a new member of Gladiators decked out in a yellow costume and New Orleans Saints visor, lived in Arkansas for more than a year after Katrina damaged his Chalmette home.

His son fixed the house so Luparello, 55, and his wife could move back in September 2006.

"The house is 100 percent," he said. "We're tickled to death to be back home."

Christian Brando dies at LA hospital

AP

Christian Brando, a key figure in the case surrounding the murder of actor Robert Blake's wife, arrives at the Burbank Superior courthouse in this Friday, May 26, 2006, file photo.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Christian Brando, the troubled eldest son of the late actor Marlon Brando, has died from pneumonia at a Los Angeles hospital, an attorney said Saturday. He was 49.

Brando died Saturday morning at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, said David Seeley, an attorney representing Marlon Brando's estate. Seeley said Brando was taken to the hospital on Jan. 11.

"This is a sad and difficult time for the family," Seeley said.

Born on May 11, 1958, Brando was a high school dropout and never had much of a career. He had small roles in a handful of movies, including 1968's "I Love You, Alice B. Toklas!" but he was better known for his brushes with the law.

He spent five years in prison after pleading guilty to manslaughter in 1990 for killing his sister's boyfriend, Dag Drollet, at the Brando family's hilltop estate.

Brando said he accidentally shot Drollet as they struggled for a gun during an argument over whether Drollet, 26, had beaten Brando's pregnant half-sister, Cheyenne.

Cheyenne, who later gave birth to Drollet's son but lost custody of the child, committed suicide in 1995. She was 25. Family associates said she had been distraught since her boyfriend's death.

In a 1991 interview with the Los Angeles Times, Brando said he never intended to kill Drollet, but wanted to scare him. "I just sat there and watched the life go out of this guy," Brando said.

At his son's trial, Marlon Brando pleaded for leniency, telling the court: "I think that perhaps I failed as a father."

Brando's ex-wife, Deborah Brando, sued him for domestic violence in 2005. She claimed that shortly after their 2004 marriage, Brando repeatedly beat her and threatened to kill her in the presence of her teenage daughter.

Brando countersued, alleging that his ex-wife broke into his home and beat him because he wanted to annul their marriage only 10 weeks after exchanging vows.

The lawsuits were settled last year on undisclosed terms.

Brando was charged January 2005 with two counts of spousal abuse and he later pleaded no contest. He was placed on three years' probation and ordered to drug and alcohol rehabilitation as well as a spousal-abuse prevention program.

Brando also was the one-time lover of Bonnie Lee Bakley, who was shot to death in 2001. At one time, Bakley claimed Brando had fathered her child but tests showed it belonged to actor Robert Blake, whom she later married.

In Celebration Of Her New Life

Rosa Taman Maliti-Fejeran

"Litefanguusch"

passed away in the grace of our Lord on January 22, 2008, at the age of 72.

In her eternal life she now joins her:

Husband: Isidro Tydingco Fejeran
Parents: Elias Olopai Maliti & Clara Somorang Taman Camacho
Ramon Rios Camacho
Reared Sister: Veronica Satur Igisomar
Son: Joseph Phillip Maliti Fejeran
Granddaughter: Allison Colleen Nepaial
Parents In Law: Jose Cruz Fejeran & Maria Tydingco Fejeran
Brother in Law: Luis I. Rangamar
Zacarias O. Igisomar
Sister In Law: Natividad F. & Zacarias Tudela

She will always live in the hearts of her children:

Elias M. & Bernie D. Fejeran; Joseph, Emelaine, Elisa, Elias Jr.
Juannet DLG. Fejeran & Joe Duenas; Eddie John & Makiko, Cassandra & George (Bianca), Rose Marie & Shan (Makaily, Joenet), Joenie & Brian
Carmen F. & Cho Dae Soo
Pedro M. & Keisha Fejeran; Awi, Carmelita, Estherlita, Iouana Rose
Francisca M. Fejeran & Jeff Robinson; Richard & Kimberly (Cheryl Mo'ika), Robert, Wyane, Sharlyn, Renall
Rosalina M. Fejeran & Ray Ruluked
Esther F. & Alfonis Sound; Angel
Clarissa M. Fejeran & Watson Sam; Boleen, Lance Dale, Beverleen
Isidora F. & Levaula Tasi; Rex & Valencia (Siana Dorene), Leon & Gina (Tasiaeafe,Bruce Uitime), Seipepa, Uitime
Reared Daughter: Domaita Sablan Aidel
Siblings & Spouse: Lourdes M. Rangamar, Ursula & Conrad Tinio, Vicente & Rita Camacho, Maria & William Wanket, Rosario & Michael White, Francisca & Bernard Keremius
Brother in Laws and Spouses: Raymond & Edith Fejeran, Benigno & Neng Fejeran, Moses & Ana Fejeran, Felipe & Carmen Fejeran
Sister In Laws: Maria S. Fejeran , Sophia M. Fejeran
Promised Sisters: Dicta Tenorio, Pamela Tenorio, Diann Domingo

She will always be remembered by numerous aunties, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.

Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:30 p.m., at the residence of Esther & Alfonis Sound located in DanDan. On Tuesday, January 29th 2008, her remains will be taken from CHC at 3:00 p.m. to the residence.

Viewing and last respect will be at the residence the following day at 8:00 a.m. Responso service will be at 10:00 a.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Burial Rites will be at Mount Carmel Cemetary immediately after mass of Christian Burial.

Please Join us in prayers.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway, Thank you

Children

Mother
She's sweeter than the fragrances
That fill the well in spring
A joy she is above the joys
That all the years can bring.
She's dearer than the dearest friend
That I will ever know,
Her prayers even guide me on
No matter where I go.
Her face is burrowed deep with cares
Her hair is streaked with gray,
And rosary beads slip through the hands
That first joined mine to pray.
And through the years have dimmed those eyes
That were so lustrous fait,
'Tis death alone can take away
The love-light shining there.
At night when kneeling down to pray
I thank our Lord above
Who was good to give me
My mother's deathless love.

‘Frozen River’ best drama at Sundance

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—For the third year in a row, a movie revolving around immigrants won the grand-jury prize for best U.S. drama at the Sundance Film Festival on Saturday. Only this time, they come from the north.

“Frozen River,” a film about a struggling single mother in upstate New York who teams with a Mohawk woman to smuggle people across the Canadian border, is the first feature from director-writer Courtney Hunt. She adapted it from her own 2004 short of the same name.

“Trouble the Water,” about the survival of a New Orleans couple through Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, earned the grand jury award in the U.S. documentary competition at the festival, the nation’s top showcase for independent film.

The movie by Michael Moore collaborators Tia Lessin and Carl Deal utilizes footage shot by one of its subjects, Kimberly Rivers Roberts. Roberts traveled to the festival with her husband Scott and gave birth to a daughter, Skyy, in Salt Lake City on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

“We had two world premieres this week,” Lessin said.

William H. Macy hosted the awards ceremony Saturday night, opening with an off-color monologue that incorporated the titles of many films at the fest, from “Downloading Nancy” to “Flow: For Love of Water.”

“The Wackness,” starring a loose and lively Ben Kingsley as a psychiatrist who trades therapy for marijuana, won the audience award for favorite U.S. drama as chosen by balloting among Sundance movie-goers.

“Part of what this is about is making a relationship with an audience, not necessarily making a relationship with a studio or agents or whatever,” writer-director Jonathan Levine said dryly. His coming-of-age dramedy had been expected to be picked up for distribution during the festival, but was not.

Sony Pictures Classics purchased “Frozen River,” trade papers reported, for under $1 million. Juror Quentin Tarantino described the film, starring Melissa Leo and Misty Upham, as “a wonderful depiction of poverty in America.”

“It took my breath away and then somewhere around the last hour, it put my heart in a vice and proceeded to twist that vice until the last frame,” Tarantino said.

Swedish filmmaker Jens Jonsson’s “King of Ping Pong,” about two at-odds brothers who uncover their family history over spring break, earned the jury and cinematography prizes in the world cinema dramatic competition.

The world cinema jury and audience awards for documentary went to “Man on Wire,” British director James Marsh’s retelling of French artist Philippe Petit’s daring—and illegal—1974 wire-walk between the twin towers of the World Trade Center.

“Fields of Fuel,” activist-filmmaker Josh Tickell’s call to break the U.S. from dependence on oil, earned the U.S. audience award for documentaries. Tickell said he made it over 10 years.

Director Amin Matalqa’s “Captain Abu Raed,” which Sundance said was the first feature film from Jordan in 50 years, won the world cinema audience award.

“This is a dream,” a breathless Matalqa said at the ceremony.

Alex Rivera and David Riker won the Waldo Salt screenwriting award for “Sleep Dealer.” Rivera, also the director, won the Alfred P. Sloan Prize for ideas and issues in science and technology.

The U.S. dramatic jury, which included Marcia Gay Harden, Diego Luna and Sandra Oh, presented a special jury prize for work by an ensemble cast to “Choke.” Actors in the adaptation of Chuck Palahniuk’s novel include Sam Rockwell and Anjelica Huston.

Among other Sundance honors:

■ Directing, U.S. drama: Lance Hammer, “Ballast.”

■ Directing, U.S. documentary: Nanette Burstein, “American Teen.”

■ Cinematography, U.S. drama: Lol Crawley, “Ballast.”

■ Editing, U.S. documentary: Joe Bini, “Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired.”

■ Special jury prize for singularity of vision, U.S. drama: Chusy Haney-Jardine, “Anywhere, USA.”

■ Special jury prize, world cinema dramatic competition: “Blue Eyelids,” Ernesto Contreras, director.

■ Special jury prize, world cinema documentary competition: “Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo,” Lisa F. Jackson, director.

■ Jury prize, U.S. short films: “My Olympic Summer,” directed by Daniel Robin, and “Sikumi (On the Ice),” directed by Andrew Okpeaha MacLean.

■ Jury prize, international short films: “Soft,” Simon Ellis, director.

AP

Director Courtney Hunt accepts the Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic for her film ‘Frozen River’ at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008.

Redford to take on ‘A Walk in the Woods’

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—With the Sundance Film Festival nearly over, Robert Redford is going for “A Walk in the Woods.”

Redford told The Associated Press that his next film project is an adaptation of the best-selling 1998 Bill Bryson book about hiking the Appalachian Trail. He will produce the film and star as Bryson, and Barry Levinson is expected to direct it.

“It’ll be fun. I don’t know when I’ve read a book that I laughed so loud,” Redford said by phone Friday from California. “Also it’s a chance to take a look at the country. ... The backdrop is pretty terrific, if you stop to think of all the visuals that are possible as they go along that trail.”

After that, Redford said he’ll tackle the “inside, down-to-the mats story” of how Branch Rickey helped Jackie Robinson break into major league baseball in 1947.

“What Rickey had to do, what Robinson had to go through, and the partnership they had to form, that’s a story nobody knows,” Redford said. “It’s just a fascinating story.”

...reflects on actor Ledger’s death as Sundance Film Festival wraps

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Robert Redford reflected on the shockwaves that swept through the Sundance Film Festival this week after the death of actor Heath Ledger, recalling a similar response after the near death of another famous actor decades earlier.

“When I was at the Oscars years ago with ‘Ordinary People,’ the day we were going to have the Oscars, Reagan was shot. And that put kind of a damper on the awards,” he said. “So something like that, the death of somebody so representative of what we’re here for, and so representative of what actors go into film for, it’s a shock.”

Reagan, a former actor who was U.S. president at the time of the shooting, eventually recovered from the 1981 assassination attempt that punctured his lung and narrowly missed his heart.

Authorities suspect a possible drug overdose in the case of Ledger, who was found unresponsive in a Manhattan apartment on Tuesday. The cause of Ledger’s death will not be known for at least a week, after medical examiners complete toxicology tests.

Redford, who founded Sundance 30 years ago, noted that part of what Ledger will be remembered for was his work in independent films. Ledger had appeared in two Sundance films, 1997’s “Blackrock” and 1999’s “Two Hands.”

“I just think he was one of those actors that was very, very special because he played so many different kinds of roles, and much of his work was more in the independent area,” Redford said. “That’s too young to check out. It was a shock, and I think it should’ve been a shock to people that that could happen.”

Redford, who has been part of Sundance since its inception 30 years ago, said he and other festival-goers were shocked and saddened by the news that actor Heath Ledger died on Tuesday. Ledger had appeared in two Sundance films, 1997’s “Blackrock” and 1999’s “Two Hands.”

“I just think he was one of those actors that was very, very special because he played so many different kinds of roles, and much of his work was more in the independent area,” Redford said. “That’s too young to check out.”

As for this year’s Sundance festival, which concludes Sunday, Redford said he was only able to see a few films, including “U2 3D,” “In Bruges” and “What Just Happened?” which was directed by Levinson.

Redford noted that there were more new filmmakers at the festival this year than ever before, and praised the “crossover” movies that have grown in prominence here: “You’re seeing music in film, you’re seeing poetry in film, you’re seeing animation.”

Redford reiterated his concern that the festival is being judged not by its films but by peripheral activities like the lavish parties companies throw to attract celebrities and promote the companies’ products.

“I don’t have any problem with a large part of this. It’s just once some of the media began to focus on the other part, and then judge us by that, then that got frustrating,” he said.

AP

Robert Redford poses for a photograph while making his rounds at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah in this Jan. 18, 2008, file photo.

Ledger's funeral arrangements a mystery

NEW YORK (AP)—Details about funeral arrangements for actor Heath Ledger remained secret as his body was taken from a Manhattan funeral home.

Ledger's publicist, Mara Buxbaum, said Friday the arrangements "will continue to be kept private at the family's request."

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said his government would do whatever was needed to help the family bring back the 28-year-old Ledger's body to Australia.

His body was moved from the police-barricaded funeral home amid a swarm of cameras and reporters at about 4 p.m. Friday. Meanwhile, police insisted they have no interest in interviewing actress Mary-Kate Olsen, who was the first person a masseuse called after finding an unresponsive Ledger in a Manhattan apartment Tuesday.

In her first comment since the Australian-born actor's death, Olsen issued a statement that read: "Heath was a friend. His death is a tragic loss. My thoughts are with his family during this very difficult time."

Police said the masseuse who found Ledger's body spent nine minutes making three calls to the "Full House" actress before dialing 911 for help, then called Olsen a fourth time after paramedics arrived. At some point during the flurry of calls, Olsen, who was in California, summoned her personal security guards to the apartment to help, police said.

AP

The body of Heath Ledger is removed from the Frank E. Campbell funeral home and placed in a hearse in New York, Friday, Jan 25, 2008. Ledger, 28, died at his Manhattan apartment on Tuesday.

NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said investigators interviewed everyone at the scene, each of whom was cooperative. That eliminated "any need to interview Miss Olsen," he said.

Ledger's family placed a death notice in The West Australian, a newspaper based in his hometown of Perth, remembering him as "the most amazing 'old soul' in a young man's body."

The actor's sister, Kate, said she could "hardly breathe" as she tried to write her tribute. "We were the ultimate soul mates," she said.

"You were so many things to so many people, but to me you were just my little brother."

The cause of Ledger's death will not be known for at least a week, after medical examiners complete toxicology tests. Authorities suspect a possible drug overdose. Several prescription drugs were found in the Manhattan apartment where Ledger's body was found.

Coens, Penn vie for top directors honor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Members of Hollywood's union for filmmakers had an interesting range of choices for their top prize this year.

In the running for the feature-film honor at Saturday's Directors Guild of America Awards were two brothers (Joel and Ethan Coen), a veteran art house filmmaker (Paul Thomas Anderson), a screenwriter making his directing debut (Tony Gilroy), an artist-turned-director (Julian Schnabel) and an Academy Award-winning actor who moonlights as a director (Sean Penn).

Presenters slated for the black-tie affair included Helen Hunt; Debra Messing; Anna Paquin; current Oscar nominees Hal Holbrook, Tilda Swinton and Daniel Day-Lewis; and Martin Scorsese, who won the DGA prize and best-directing Oscar a year ago for "The Departed."

Unlike other major honors, such as Sunday night's Screen Actors Guild Awards, the DGA ceremony has always been untelevised, making it a more laid-back gathering of Hollywood's elite and shielding it from some of the attention the industry's labor strife has brought to other ceremonies.

AP

This photo released by Miramax shows directors Ethan Coen, left, and Joel Coen on the set of "No Country for Old Men." The film received eight Oscar nominations including best director for the Coen brothers.

The Golden Globes banquet was canceled after stars made clear they would stay away in support of the Writers Guild of America strike, and the Oscars may face the same dilemma come Feb. 24.

Still, the writers' strike did cast a pall over the directors' big night, even though their guild last week negotiated a new contract after just days of meetings with producers. A fair number of Directors Guild members also belong to the writers union, whose strike has shut down TV shows and postponed movies, throwing thousands in the entertainment industry out of work.

Holbrook, nominated for the supporting-actor Oscar for Penn's "Into the Wild," said the "strike is becoming really dangerous. They're losing their homes. ...

"All I can hope is since we all have to share in producing anything—from the studio to the actors to the camera person to the costume lady, whatever, the set dresser—we all share," Holbrook said.

Many in Hollywood hope the Directors Guild deal will help resuscitate talks between writers and producers, whose negotiations broke down Dec. 7, a month after guild members walked off the job.

Dan Glickman—who heads the Motion Picture Association of America, Hollywood's top trade group—said before Saturday's directing awards that the union's new contract "offers a very good template for the other guilds," which could jump-start the labor impasse in time to let the Oscars go on.

Tom Cruise among the stars at SAG Awards rehearsal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—You're never too big to rehearse.

Tom Cruise was among the stars who stopped by the Shrine Auditorium Saturday to run through lines for Sunday's Screen Actors Guild Awards—the only show during Hollywood's strike-subdued awards season that's sure to have an A-list turnout.

Clad in a black blazer with a matching turtleneck and jeans, Cruise chewed gum and joked with stagehands as he practiced his lines in front of an audience of stand-ins and seat-saving placards.

His rehearsal was broadcast on monitors throughout the theater as workers prepared it for the 1,200 actors and industry heavyweights expected, along with scores of journalists.

Among the expected guests at the union's 14th annual awards show are Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, John Travolta, Michelle Pfeiffer, Forest Whitaker and Cate Blanchett.

Even the rehearsal list read like a star-studded party, with Chandra Wilson, Vanessa Williams, Viggo Mortensen, Kate Beckinsale and James Marsden among those taking the stage Saturday.

Outside, a tent in the theater parking lot was transformed into an elegant setting for the awards-show after party. Thousands of white roses filled giant gold vases lining the curtain-draped walls. Half a dozen workers stood atop tall ladders to trim the ceiling with greenery.

In just a few hours, the crates of champagne flutes in the center of the room would be replaced with actors rubbing elbows with their own.

Wife says husband is all wet when it comes to apologies

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband believes an apology is required only if the action requiring one is intentional. For example, if my husband opens the windows and then turns on the sprinklers, allowing water into the living room, he thinks he doesn't need to apologize for causing the ensuing mess because he didn't do it intentionally.

I believe an apology is necessary, not just for an accident, but for anything that causes inconvenience to another person.

What are your thoughts?

IRRITATED IN IRVING, TEXAS

DEAR IRRITATED: It seems you have married someone who's a little rough around the edges. If your husband opens a window, turns on the sprinklers and causes your drapes, furniture or carpet to become wet, he owes you an apology for the inconvenience he caused. To do otherwise implies an insensitivity to your feelings. My question would be, Is your husband also this way when it comes to other things?

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 28-year-old woman. In the past, many men have cheated on me. I have been dating a wonderful man for three years now. Things would be great if I didn't always worry about him possibly cheating, too. When I can't find him, I panic. I always think the worst, then I wind up confronting him and upsetting him.

I can't seem to get past the feeling that one day he will also be unfaithful. I wish I could trust him, but I'm afraid to be made a fool of again.

Is being with this man hopeless?

ALWAYS SUSPICIOUS, JAMAICA, N.Y.

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: Your problem is less that you feel you can't trust your boyfriend than that you can't trust your own judgment. As the 49ers learned more than a century ago, you have to sift through a lot of gravel before you find a gold nugget, and it's the same with dating.

You appear to have finally picked a winner. Please give him the benefit of the doubt before your insecurities cause you to create a self-fulfilling prophecy.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter will be 16 in a few weeks. My problem is I can't seem to let her go anywhere unless an adult is present. It's not that I don't trust her, because I do. It's her friends. I love my daughter very much and wish I could trust her to make the right choice, but a friend could cause her to make the wrong one.

I think I am too strict with her, and I need to give her some running room, but I'm scared to. She's a good kid and makes good grades. What should I do?

CAN'T LET GO, RIPLEY, MISS.

DEAR CAN'T: Part of being a conscientious parent is learning to let go. Recognize that in two years, your daughter will be 18 and legally an adult. Because she has shown responsible behavior, allow her doses of freedom in baby steps that will give both of you time to adjust to it.

Birds of a feather usually flock together, so unless you have specific reasons for being worried about the company she keeps, recognize that it's time to permit your daughter to use the good judgment you have taught her and allow her some freedom.

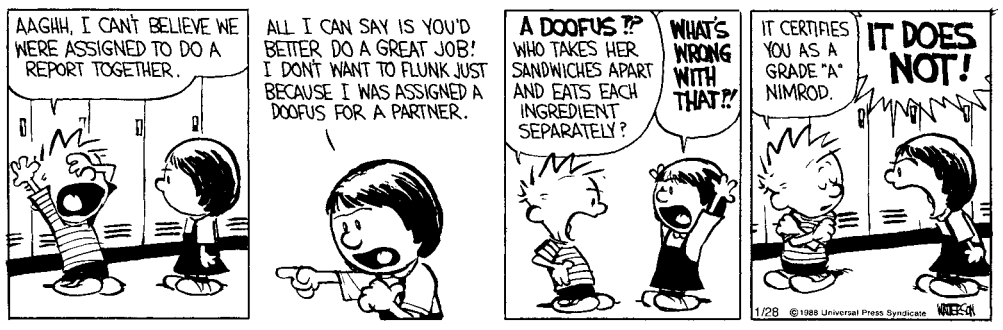
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


AAGHH, I CAN'T BELIEVE WE WERE ASSIGNED TO DO A REPORT TOGETHER.
ALL I CAN SAY IS YOU'D BETTER DO A GREAT JOB! I DON'T WANT TO FLUNK JUST BECAUSE I WAS ASSIGNED A DOOFUS FOR A PARTNER.
A DOOFUS ?! WHO TAKES HER SANDWICHES APART AND EATS EACH INGREDIENT SEPARATELY?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!
IT CERTIFIES YOU AS A GRADE "A" NIMROD.
IT DOES NOT!
1/28 ©1988 Universal Press Syndicate

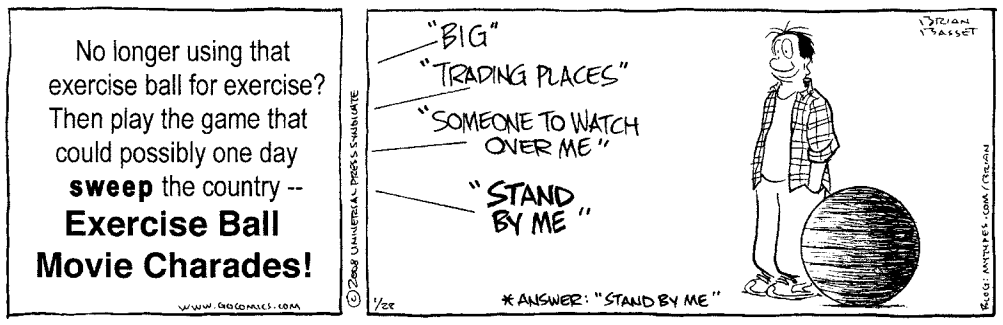
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

IT'S COLD IN HERE
YOU LEFT THE DOOR OPEN!
ONE SUBJECT AT A TIME, LIST BOY
JIM DAVIS 1-28
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

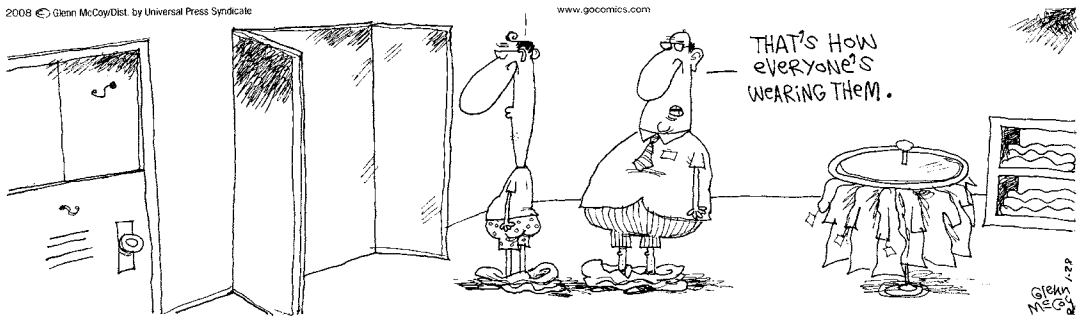
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


No longer using that exercise ball for exercise? Then play the game that could possibly one day sweep the country -- Exercise Ball Movie Charades!
www.gocomics.com
"BIG"
"TRADING PLACES"
"SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME"
"STAND BY ME"
*ANSWER: "STAND BY ME"
1/28

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Spring-time mo.
4 Fast
9 Cow's chew
12 Court
13 Not just chubby
14 Clay's ring name
15 Book keeper?
17 Em halves
18 "I — Camera"
19 Alveolus
21 Ran
24 Vena — (large vein)
25 Three minus two
26 Society new-comer
28 Com-poser Anderson
31 Foot fraction
33 Father
35 Anger
36 Sum
38 Disen-cumber
40 The whole amount
41 Astrin-gent
43 Cue
45 Car grill material
47 Chicken — king
48 Floral wreath
49 Unrefined type
54 Coach Parsegh-ian
55 Grown-up
56 Caustic solution
57 Fellows
58 Actress Zellweger
59 Mel-bourne suburb

DOWN
1 Piercing tool
2 Luau side dish
3 Filch
4 Wan-dered
5 Rough-ened by rub-bing
6 Architect I.M.
7 Son of Abraham
8 No com-ment?
9 Re some Roman emperors
10 Arm bone
11 DVD, e.g.
16 "Go, team!"
20 Camping enthusi-ast, for short
21 Porter's "Let's —"
22 Domini preceder
23 Denomi-national-ist
27 Tavern
29 — podrida
30 Scream
32 Angelic glow
34 Render ineffec-tive
37 Loin-related
39 Widen
42 Gettys-burg general
44 Needle-fish
45 Untalka-tive one
46 Roll call reply
50 Operate
51 Sort
52 Sailor's assent
53 Fresh

Solution time: 24 mins.

F	O	B	■	H	A	N	D	■	S	L	I	P	
E	K	E	■	U	S	E	R	■	A	U	R	A	
E	R	A	■	S	T	O	A	■	T	B	A	R	
L	A	U	G	H	I	N	G	H	Y	E	N	A	
■	■	■	O	U	R	■	N	O	R	■	■	■	
S	T	O	O	P	■	J	E	T	■	A	L	A	
L	E	A	D	■	R	U	T	■	D	I	E	S	
Y	E	T	■	P	A	D	■	T	U	L	I	P	
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W	E	E	P	I	N	G	W	I	L	L	O	W	
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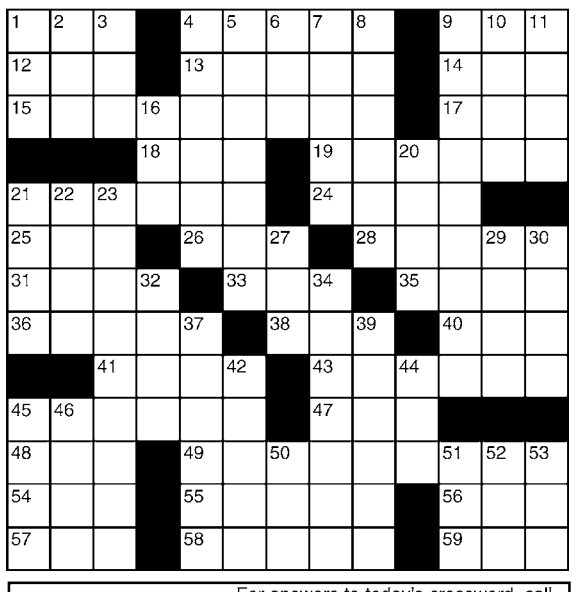
A	R	I	A	■	S	T	E	T	■	V	I	S	
M	O	N	T	■	S	O	R	E	■	I	T	S	

Saturday's answer 1-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chelsea Brummet, 21; Elijah Wood, 27; Nick Carter, 28; Sarah McLachlan, 40

Happy Birthday: Sort out your finances so you can take a vacation or purchase something for the family. The more time you spend accumulating and nurturing, the better off you will be. Gains are in the stars but only if you take the initiative. You must take action; sitting idle will lead nowhere. Your numbers are 9, 16, 19, 27, 33, 39

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): No one is going to come to your rescue, so face the facts and plan your strategy. You've always been able to pull things together and now is no exception. You are quick to react and you like to be in control, so get on with it. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You've got what you need to move forward. You can expand your ideas and source out information that will help you go further. Distance yourself from the people who have become your biggest burdens. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Consider what you want to do with your life and pursue it. A move or professional change is feasible. The more unique you are, the more interest you will get, so don't be afraid to be different. A favorable response is likely. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You've got some great ideas that you must expand on. A trip will pay off. Someone may lean on you for help; don't let it cost you. Listen to complaints and you will resolve emotional issues. Children may be difficult to handle. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do whatever you can to raise the value of your assets. Change things at home so you are happier with your surroundings. A professional change is possible and a good resume will lead to a better position. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Lighten up and have some fun. You'll be surprised by the caliber of people you meet if you put more entertainment hours into your busy schedule. A change in your status is looking positive. It's time to mix business with pleasure. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take part in something unusual and you will pick up valuable information. Travel or visit somewhere you have never been before. You can take on any challenge and win. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Personal problems will hold you back. Deal with matters that will help you advance professionally. As soon as you give in to someone else's idea or way of doing things, you will lose ground. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Set the standard and follow your own path even if someone wants to sabotage your ideas or change your course of action. Use your imagination and come up with original ideas and you will confuse whoever tries to take over. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Money is in the picture and gains can be made, so don't hold back. Collect old debts, invest, talk about plans and set up meetings. Be careful not to let your personal life interfere with your progress. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You've got the talent and the tenacity to get what you want. Once your plans are in place, you can finish what you start. A new deal is looking very positive and, if you use your ingenuity, you can get some additional perks. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Get rid of the stress in your life by making the changes necessary to help you build a solid base. Set up a budget. A job opening is apparent but if you don't ask around or search the classified ads you will miss out. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are bright, articulate and a little ahead of your time. You are imaginative, curious and quick to take action. You are driven and competitive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	4				7	1	
				1	2			
3			5		6			2
	1	5				9		
	3		7	4	1		6	
		7				1	3	
1			2		5			8
			8	9				
	6	2				5	4	

Difficulty Level ★ 1/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	1	8	2	9	3	4	6	5
6	9	4	5	1	7	3	2	8
5	3	2	6	8	4	7	1	9
4	5	1	9	2	8	6	7	3
3	6	9	1	7	5	2	8	4
8	2	7	3	4	6	5	9	1
2	8	5	7	3	9	1	4	6
1	4	3	8	6	2	9	5	7
9	7	6	4	5	1	8	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JUNK E-MAILS **Solution: 8 letters**

N	H	E	K	D	T	S	N	P	G	S	(K)	S	A	T
B	O	U	N	C	E	I	B	I	N	(S)	F	U	L	L
Y	S	I	E	I	A	L	H	S	(I)	H	P	U	A	C
X	T	J	T	M	L	B	E	(D)	D	I	D	G	Y	S
O	E	F	O	A	F	N	R	T	N	A	N	B	G	E
R	E	D	I	R	C	E	O	B	E	I	E	O	N	M
P	R	E	A	G	M	I	O	I	S	R	L	R	I	A
R	F	U	C	O	T	X	F	S	T	C	E	S	P	N
O	D	C	T	R	N	E	E	I	O	C	N	L	I	S
D	B	S	L	P	U	C	S	N	T	I	N	G	A	S
U	U	R	N	I	O	O	N	L	A	N	I	U	M	Y
C	L	E	E	R	C	E	S	H	A	R	E	D	F	S
T	K	E	P	M	C	K	C	I	O	F	T	D	N	T
S	S	P	O	T	A	R	G	E	T	S	I	G	I	E
N	W	O	D	T	U	H	S	E	G	A	S	S	E	M

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Account, Adult, Back, Bins, Bounce, Bulks, Chains, Click, Clog, Connect, Customer, Cyber, Delete, Disk, Domain, False, Fraud, Free, Full, Function, Gift, Host, Identification, Inbox, Messages, Names, Online, Open, Origin, Peers, Phish, Ping, Processing, Products, Program, Proxy, Reject, Relay, Sending, Shared, Shut-down, Site, Source, Spread, System, Targets, Tasks

Last Saturday's Answer: Sausage

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Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

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FOR SALE COMMERCIAL

Bud's Bar is now for sale $18K-$20K. Everything goes. Serious buyers only. Contact Les @ 233-1113, 898-4866

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(M 6168)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: ILC Corporation dba Ladera Int'l School of Saipan @288-2006.

---

1 COMPUTER TECHNICIAN
(M 6169)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free medical expenses & free medical insurance. Contact: Multi Business Corporation dba Video Haus, Accounting Service, VH Mini Mart, C3 Wholesale Seafoods @233-5397.

---

1 PACKER (M 6170)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation shall be provided by the employer. Contact: Century Corporation @285-6160.

1 MANAGER (M 6171)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation shall be provided by the employer. Contact: Century Corporation @285-6160.

---

1 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR (M 6172)
Salary:$3.85/hour. Benefits: Self arranges housing; self provided food; medical & worksmen compensation provided by ER. Contact: Marianas Repairs Co., Inc. @234-9083.

---

1 CASHIER (M 6173)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Workman's compensation & medical provided. Contact: AFH, Inc. @234-6269.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (M 6174)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Live out housing; 1 meal free & medical. Contact: Josephine C. Balicanta @234-0740.

---

1 SALES MANAGER (M 6175)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: RK CNMI Inc. @233-0569.

---

3 MASSEUSE/MASSEUR (M 6176)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Sterling Corporation @233-7766.

---

1 ASST. MANAGER (M 6177)
Salary:$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & worksman compensation. Contact: Halal Corp. CNMI dba Marianas Telecom @233-9457.

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1 ARTIST (M 6178)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & bonding. Contact: EQ Const. Corporation dba Saipan Arts & Signs @234-8827.

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LOST PASSPORT

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Date of Birth	:	**January 28, 1971**
Passport No.	:	**G06665605**
Contact No.	:	**287-0189**

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

OPTIMIST

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*	
• 1st position	**$10**
• 2nd position	**$3**
• Succeeding positions	**$1**
Combo (Print and Online)*	
• 1st position	**$13**
• 2nd position	**$4**
• Succeeding positions	**$2**
Radio (KCNM/KZMI)	
• Up to 6 positions	**$5**
• More than 6 positions	**$10**

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Heat snaps 15-game skid, beat Pacers

MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Heat beat the Indiana Pacers 98-96 on Saturday and ended a 15-game losing streak—the longest in the NBA this season and the second-longest in franchise history.

So what if Miami improved its record to only 9-33? For the first time since Dec. 22, the Heat could leave a game happy.

Dwyane Wade scored 35 points, Mark Blount added 10 of his 19 in the pivotal fourth quarter, and Dorell Wright had 14 points and 10 rebounds.

The Pacers led by nine with 4:05 left in the third but couldn't finish off Miami. Mike Dunleavy scored 25 points for Indiana, which has lost 13 of its last 17 games.

76ers 103, Bobcats 96

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Andre Iguodala scored 33 points and Philadelphia recovered from a poor start to beat Charlotte and snap a three-game losing streak.

Andre Miller added 23 points and Samuel Dalembert grabbed 14 rebounds in a rare good performance for the 76ers, who had lost 11 of 13 games this month.

The Sixers rallied from an early 11-point deficit by controlling the boards. They had 17 offensive rebounds, while Iguodala hit 13 of 21 shots, finishing one shy of his career high.

Jason Richardson led the Bobcats with 35 points.

Hornets 102, Spurs 78

At San Antonio, David West scored 32 points and New Orleans won its eighth straight game.

Peja Stojakovic added 22 points, including four 3-pointers, and Chris Paul had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Hornets.

Tim Duncan and Tony Parker scored 17 points apiece for San Antonio, which has lost five games at home this season.

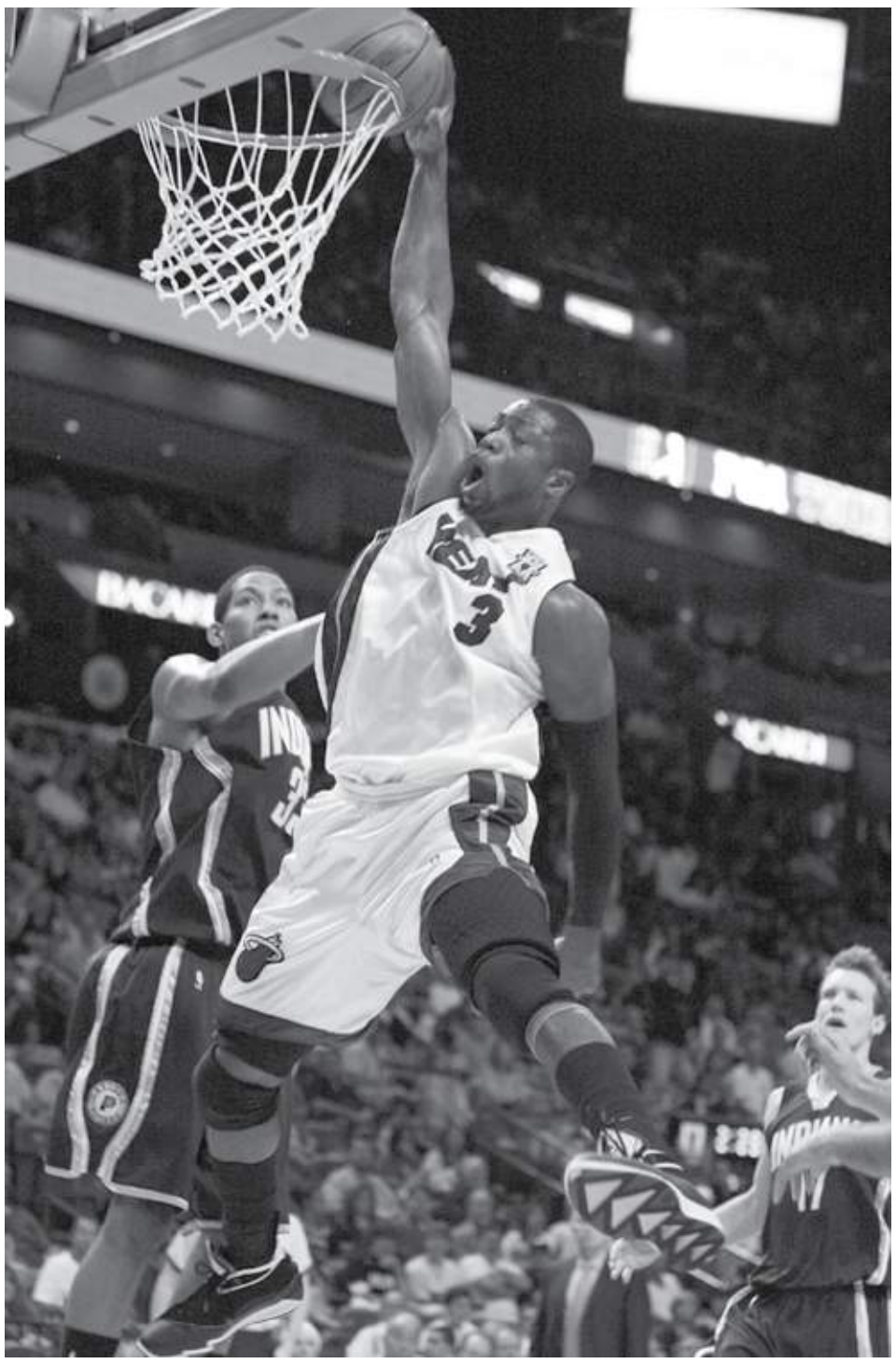
The Hornets outscored the Spurs 60-35 in the second half, when they took control of the game and grabbed the lead for good.

Grizzlies 125,Clippers 120, OT

At Memphis, Tennessee, Rudy Gay scored a career-high 34 points and Memphis hit its free throws at the end to beat Los Angeles in overtime.

Mike Miller scored 27 points for Memphis, and Kyle Lowry had a career-high 21 points and eight assists for the Grizzlies, who shot 53 percent and hit seven of eight free throws in the final 21.2 seconds to maintain their lead.

Corey Maggette had a season-high 35 points to lead the Clippers, while Sam Cassell finished with 25 and Tim Thomas scored 23, hitting 10 of his 13 shots before fouling out with 26.6 seconds left.



AP

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) dunks the ball past Indiana Pacers forward Danny Granger, left, during the third quarter of a basketball game Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008 in Miami.

Mystery surrounds Tom Brady like a cast

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Mystery surrounds the condition of Tom Brady's right foot like a protective boot. After limping while wearing the footwear in New York on Monday, the Patriots star wasn't seen or heard during the time on Thursday and Friday when reporters and photographers had access to the players in the locker room and at practice.

The club isn't shedding any light on the issue despite coach Bill Belichick's statement that it would.

When asked at his news conference Friday if he could say whether Brady would practice later in the day, Belichick said: "Not now. We'll see. Let you know after practice, or does everybody have a deadline before then?"

But the team never announced if the NFL MVP was at practice. New England vice president of media relations Stacey James said Friday night he had no update.

During the week before a game, teams are required to issue reports on Wednesdays and Thursdays listing the players who missed practice or were limited in their participation. On Fridays, they must report players as probable, questionable, doubtful or out of the next game.

Because the Super Bowl against the New York Giants won't be played until a week from Sunday, the first report isn't due until Wednesday.

Brady reportedly has a minor high ankle sprain, according to the Boston Globe and Boston Herald.

The team has given no indication of the nature of the injury to the right foot, which Brady plants when he throws a pass. It's an encouraging sign, though, that Brady wasn't seen wearing the boot by reporters and photographers since Monday.

He wasn't in the locker room for the 45-minute access period the past two days. Nor was he spotted during the first 15 minutes of practice on Thursday and the first 12 on Friday when the media were allowed to observe.

ESPN analyst Ron Jaworski, who reviews game tapes, said he believed Brady was hurt late in the first quarter and again early in the third of New England's 21-12 win over San Diego in the AFC championship game last Sunday. Brady threw a season-high three interceptions in the game.

Recovery times from high ankle sprains vary.

Pittsburgh Penguins star Sidney Crosby learned Tuesday, the day after Brady was photographed with the boot, that he would miss 6-to-8 weeks with the injury. Jacksonville quarterback David Garrard sustained the injury last Oct. 22 and didn't play again until four weeks later.

New York Jets quarterback Chad Pennington sprained his right ankle in the season opener against the Patriots and returned two weeks later.

Dr. Steven Weinfeld, chief of foot and ankle surgery at New York's Mount Sinai Medical Center, said the recovery time is generally longer for a high ankle sprain than a lower one, the Hartford Courant reported.

"I think they'd be more worried if the game was this week," Weinfeld, who isn't treating Brady, told the newspaper. "I think it's nice that he's got almost two weeks to recover from whatever the injury was. But if it's really a high ankle sprain, those things take up to three or four months to resolve.

"Two weeks is better than one week, but I think there's a chance that he might not be at the top of his game come Feb. 3."

Two of Brady's wide receivers joked about filling in for him.

"Bill actually brought me in his office earlier this morning and asked me if I wanted to move to quarterback, and we're going to put in a whole new offense," Donte' Stallworth said. "He wants me to run the option."

Not quite, according to Wes Welker.

"Well, actually, Coach pulled me into the office and told me I was going to be the quarterback, so I don't know where he's hearing that from," Welker said of Stallworth. "I think he kind of overheard our conversation."

But no serious information about the injury was released.

At Belichick's news conference, James said, "final question" as the coach was asked to compare the current trip to the Super Bowl to the other three the team has played in.

Belichick often accepts additional questions after James' routine announcement, and a reporter offered one.

He asked if Belichick could say what Brady did or didn't do on Thursday, the Patriots' first day of practice after a three-day break.

"Was that the last question?" Belichick said of the previous one, smiling as he turned toward James.

"That was the last question," James replied.

With that, Belichick walked from the podium and out of the room, leaving a mystery in his wake.

No. 1 Memphis remains undefeated

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Chris Douglas-Roberts scored 21 points and Derrick Rose added 19 as No. 1 Memphis remained undefeated with an 81-73 victory over Gonzaga on Saturday.

This was the first time in school history the Tigers got to play on their own court as the top-ranked team, and they trailed for only a little more than a minute late in the first half before a sold-out crowd.

The Tigers (19-0) extended the nation's longest home winning streak to 43 straight by showing off their athleticism and running over Gonzaga (15-5), which had a six-game winning streak.

The Bulldogs took Memphis to overtime before losing in Spokane last season. This time, they had to be happy with keeping within single digits at the end.

Antonio Anderson added 12 points for Memphis, and Joey Dorsey had nine points and 13 rebounds before fouling out late. John Calipari joined Larry Finch as the only Memphis coaches with at least 200 wins, improving to 200-63 in his eighth season.

Jeremy Pargo led Gonzaga with 25 points while Josh Heytvelt added 13 and Micah Downs 11. Matt Bouldin was held to six points, well below his team-leading average of 14.7 per game.

The Bulldogs pulled within 62-55 on a three-point play by Bouldin with 8:08 left.

Rose answered with two free throws, the Tigers forced Gonzaga into a shot clock violation and Douglas-Roberts hit the first of two at the line. Rose added a jumper, then Douglas-Roberts dunked for a 69-55 lead with 5:52 to go.

The Bulldogs got within six inside the final minute but no closer than that even though Memphis went just 6-of-12 from the line.

Memphis made its case for staying No. 1 this time around. The Tigers lost on the road at Virginia Tech six hours after moving atop the rankings on Jan. 10, 1983. They won a road game later that week but fell out of that spot in the next poll.

These Tigers played at Tulsa on Wednesday night, which made this non-conference game that much more special. And seats were filled for the morning tipoff.

Memphis dominated on the boards behind Dorsey (40-28) but hurt Gonzaga most with 23 fast-break points - 21 off turnovers.

The Tigers opened the game by scoring the first 10 points and bringing fans to their feet. Dorsey, who grabbed 19 rebounds against Tulsa, had six of their first nine rebounds. Memphis led 25-13 on a 3-pointer by Doneal Mack and seemed on their way to a blowout.

Gonzaga settled down and finally got a chance to get into a zone defense, which helped slow the Tigers. Pargo's basket started a 19-5 run that was capped by consecutive 3s from Downs, the second with 2:16 left giving the Bulldogs their first lead of the game at 32-30.

Douglas-Roberts tipped in his own miss, then Rose rebounded Dorsey's missed layup in the air and slammed it down with both hands to beat the buzzer for a 35-32 halftime lead.

The Tigers opened the second half much as they ended the first as Douglas-Roberts dunked in the opening seconds. Memphis scored seven of the first nine points for a 42-34 lead on Anderson's fast-break dunk after Dorsey blocked Bouldin's layup.

That prompted a timeout by Gonzaga coach Mark Few. It didn't help as Douglas-Roberts was fouled after the timeout, hit both free throws to give Memphis a 44-34 lead.

Memphis led by as much as 62-46 on a fast-break layup by Andre Allen with 10:27 to go.

Tiger puts on a clinic at Torrey Pines

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Break out the umbrellas for rain, and the white flags for Tiger Woods. Winning the Buick Invitational became a matter of when—not who—after Woods put on a clinic Saturday by hitting 17 greens in regulation, building an eight-shot lead and hoping he doesn't have to wait until Monday to collect a fourth straight title at Torrey Pines.

"I'm in second place. I'm not really in contention," Stewart Cink conceded. "He's just hard to beat right now."

Woods finished off a 6-under 66 with a tap-in birdie on the par-5 18th, where his 3-iron landed on the bank guarding a pond but stopped short of going into the water. That put him at 18-under 198, tying the 54-hole tournament record set by Woody Blackburn in 1985.

Cink made a 35-foot eagle on the final hole to trim the lead to eight.

Woods shattered the Buick Invitational record for largest 54-hole lead (five shots), and it was the largest on the PGA Tour since Phil Mickelson led by eight shots at the BellSouth Classic in 2006.

This is a course Woods loves, but he has never dominated like this at Torrey Pines. Two years ago, he was in an eight-way tie for the lead with six holes to play. Last year, he had to rally from two shots behind in the final round.

"A lot more enjoyable," Woods said of his margin. "I'd like to have the biggest lead you can possibly have. You've still got to go out there and play well and post a number. Whether that takes us tomorrow or into Monday, I still need to go out there and hit good shots. You don't ever want to give guys a chance by playing poorly."

Joe Durant was among the deflated, having posted a 67 on the tough South Course only to lose ground. He was at 9-under 207, and when someone asked if the tour should have a mercy rule, Durant could only laugh.

"If there was ever a week for it, this might be it," Durant said.

Mercy might come from Mother Nature. Sunshine gave way to clouds late in the day, and the forecast Sunday was for heavy rain that could wash out the final round. Players would have to return on Monday if the course conditions and forecast allow.

PGA Tour tournament director Mark Russell said Woods with an eight-shot lead would have no bearing on the decision.

"There's no mercy rule," he said. "We're not playing Little League baseball. We'll see what happens. We might get lucky."

Everyone else might need much more than luck.

Woods has never lost a tournament when leading by more than one shot, let alone eight. And it became clear as he kept piling up birdies, and stretching his streak to 38 holes without a bogey, that there were two tournaments being played at Torrey Pines.

"I'm going to try to win the tournament that Tiger's not playing," Justin Leonard said after a 65, the best round of the day that moved him up 44 spots into a tie for fourth.

Woods had none of it.

It was his largest 54-hole lead since he led by 10 on his way to a 15-shot victory in the 2000 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, an ominous sign with Torrey Pines hosting the U.S. Open this summer.

"If it was over, they'd be handing out the trophy," Woods said.

Kevin Streelman, the 29-year-old rookie who was the last alternate to get into the Buick Invitational, finally met Woods on the first tee, and then came the introduction to his game.

Streelman held his own, driving past Woods on the opening hole and stuffing his approach into 4 feet. But he missed the putt on the low side, and while he was 1 under through eight holes, he sent a wedge over the green on the par-5 ninth and took double bogey.

Streelman wound up with a 75 that dropped him into a tie for 11th, but he had a blast.

"That was one of the coolest things ever, no doubt," he said. "He was fun to watch but just kind of fun to compare myself against him, as well. It's inspiring and very educational. I recommend everyone try it at least one time."

Even his best golf might not have mattered. Woods built a four-shot lead going into the weekend despite some scrappy play off the tee. He sorted that out Saturday, and once the putts started falling, he was on his way.

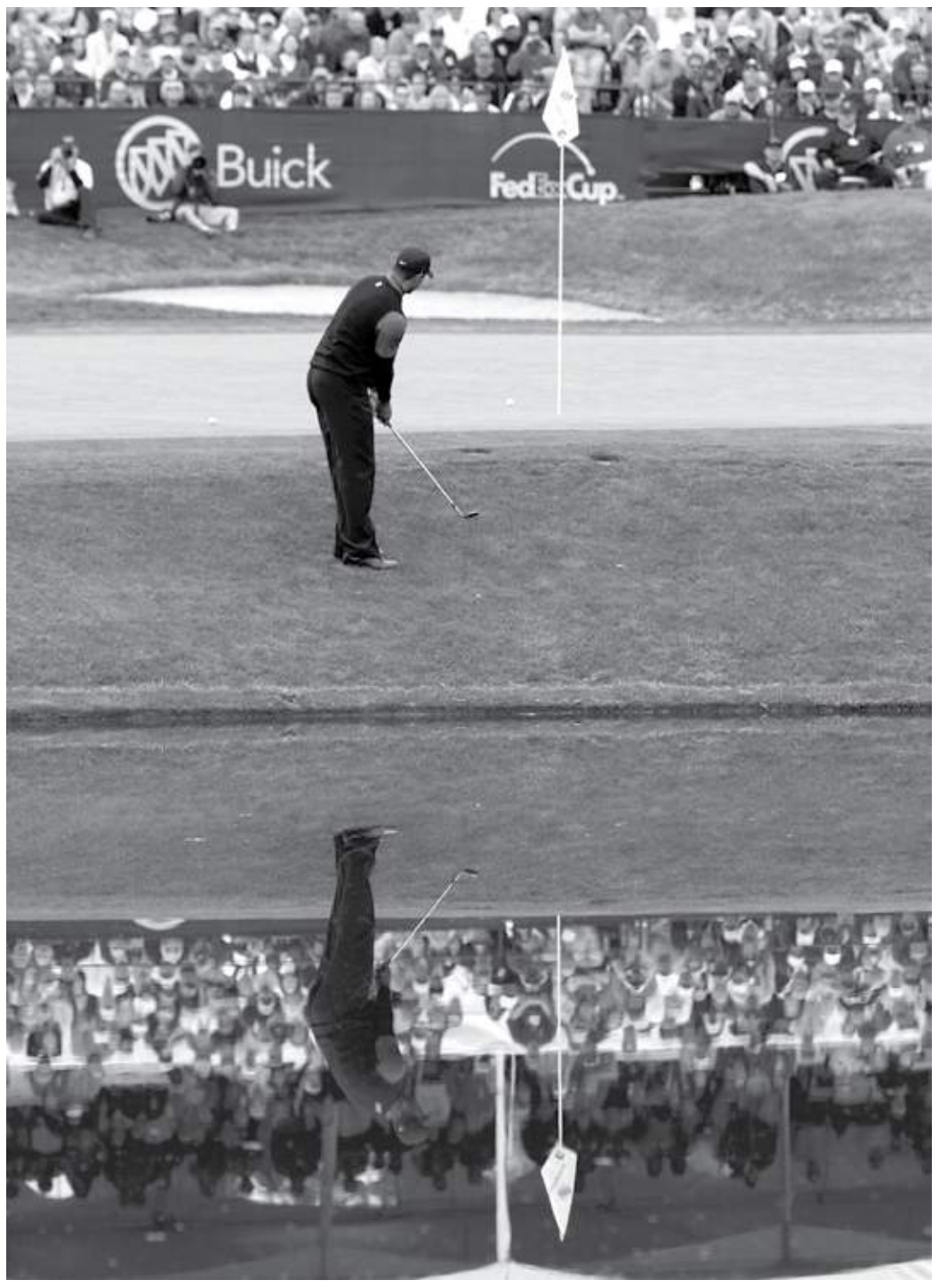
Phil Mickelson made an early charge with a 30 on the back nine (he started on No. 10) to get within five shots of the lead, but the best he could manage was a 68.

Woods holed a 10-foot birdie on the fourth, and his approach at No. 5 spun back and grazed the edge of the cup for a tap-in birdie. He hit his tee shot on the 212-yard 11th hole to 3 feet, and two-putted for birdie on the 13th, his only look at eagle all week. The only time he flirted with bogey came at the 12th, but he holed a 20-footer for par.

"I've only made one bogey," Woods said, explaining his eight-shot lead on a course where the scores usually are bunched. "I'm sure some guys have made just about the same amount of birdies as I have, but I've only dropped one shot."

Woods and everyone else will find out Sunday whether they play, but even if the fourth round can't finish until Monday, that might bring another omen to the world's No. 1 player.

The last time a PGA Tour course held the U.S. Open—the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am—Woods won that on a Monday. But he had to rally from a five-shot deficit that year. This was a runaway impressive even by Woods' standards.



AP

Tiger Woods chips for eagle on the 18th hole during the third round of the Buick Invitational golf tournament Saturday Jan. 26, 2008 in San Diego.

Morneau strikes deal with Twins

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Former AL MVP Justin Morneau received the most lucrative contract in Minnesota Twins history, an $80 million, six-year deal announced Friday along with a $24 million, three-year agreement for right fielder Michael Cuddyer.

The Twins, who have explored trading two-time AL Cy Young Award winner Johan Santana, announced the agreements at the start of their TwinsFest. General manager Bill Smith, at a news conference to discuss the Morneau and Cuddyer contracts, said the two deals do not affect any other players.

"I don't think it's any great change in philosophy," Smith said.

Assistant general manager Rob Antony handled the negotiation and praised owner Carl Pohlad and his sons for approving the deals during an offseason in which center fielder Torii Hunter and pitcher Carlos Silva left as free agents to sign with other teams.

The Pohlads didn't "want this to continue to happen," Antony said.

Morneau and Cuddyer, beaming and dressed in dark suits, joined Smith and Antony at a podium near third base on the Metrodome field.

The Twins, with a core of Morneau, Cuddyer and catcher Joe Mauer to carry them into their new ballpark in 2010, have reached agreement with all of their arbitration-eligible players. Morneau agreed to a $7.4 million, one-year contract last week, but both sides wanted to go longer.

"It's my first three years of free agency, but there's nowhere I'd rather play than Minnesota," Morneau said.

The first baseman hit .271 with 31 homers and 111 RBIs last year, becoming the first Twins player since Gary Gaetti in 1987 to have back-to-back 30-homer seasons.

Cuddyer has emerged as a dependable run producer in the middle of the lineup, though his numbers dropped from a career year in 2006. After being moved around the field several times throughout the beginning of his career, Cuddyer has settled in right.

The ninth overall draft pick in 1997, Cuddyer hit .276 with 16 homers and 81 RBIs last season. He led the AL with 19 outfield assists while perfecting the art of playing the ball off that tricky big baggie at the Metrodome.

Cuddyer gets a $2.75 million signing bonus and salaries of $5 million this year, $6.75 million in 2009 and $8.5 million in 2010. Minnesota has a $10.5 million club option for 2011 with a $1 million buyout.

With Hunter's departure, the Twins have an opening in center field. Manager Ron Gardenhire has mentioned that he might try Cuddyer there this spring.

"If that does come about, obviously I'm going to go out there and play my best," Cuddyer said.

Report: Raiders ask Lane Kiffin to resign

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—The Oakland Raiders denied a report Friday that owner Al Davis asked coach Lane Kiffin to resign.

ESPN, citing unidentified sources, reported that Davis drew up a resignation letter for Kiffin two weeks ago, but the coach refused to sign it. Kiffin has two years left on the contract he signed last January.

"There is no issue here," Raiders senior executive John Herrera said. "There was never an issue here. There's nothing to it."

Kiffin declined to address the report when asked about it by ESPN at the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala.

"I'm not going to comment on anything that has transpired in the past three weeks," said Kiffin, who is coaching the North team in the college all-star game.

Speculation about Kiffin's status began three weeks ago after reports surfaced following the season that he wanted to fire defensive coordinator Rob Ryan. The Raiders dismissed those reports and announced that Ryan was staying on as coordinator.

Kiffin told reporters at the Senior Bowl earlier in the week that his relationship with Ryan "is not an issue."

Kiffin is scheduled to interview former San Diego Chargers receivers coach James Lofton on Monday for a potential job on the Raiders' staff, Herrera said.

Lofton, who was fired earlier this week by San Diego, interviewed for the head coaching job in Oakland the previous two years. Lofton lost out to Art Shell in 2006 and to Kiffin last year.

Kiffin, 32, was the youngest man to coach a game in the NFL since Harland Svare took over the Los Angeles Rams as a 31-year old in 1962. He overhauled almost the entire coaching staff after he arrived, hiring 14 new assistants.

The team went 4-12 in his first season in Oakland, doubling the team's win total from the previous year and showing signs of improvement in many areas.

But the defense under Ryan struggled despite returning all 11 starters as well as some key reserves from a unit that allowed the fewest yards passing and third fewest total yards in the league in 2006.

Alaska sets up semis duel vs. Sta. Lucia

MANILA, Philippine—Alaska just didn't give Coca-Cola a chance to gain a second wind, sweeping its way to the 2007-08 Smart PBA Philippine Cup Final Four Friday night at the Astrodome.

The Aces applied the broom on the Tigers and completed the semis cast, joining the Purefoods TJ Giants, the Sta. Lucia Realtors and the Red Bull Barakos.

Willie Miller erupted for 28 points and three of his teammates added at least 16 points each as they eased out the Tigers, 110-100, to set up a best-of-seven semifinal showdown with the Realtors.

Game One is set Sunday in the same venue.

"I'm absolutely shocked we're playing the semifinals starting Sunday. That's shocking to me," said Alaska coach Tim Cone, surprised of their easy win over the Tigers.

"Fatigue obviously became a factor in the series. But the shoes will be on the other foot in our next series. We'll be weary and we'll be up against a fresh team," Cone added.

The Alaska mentor thinks they will have a tough time having only one day to prepare for Sta. Lucia.

"Sta. Lucia is a defensive team. Coke is also a good defensive team and hopefully they prepared us for Sta. Lucia," said Cone.

The Tigers may really be a good defensive team but they appeared to be too exhausted to stop the Aces.

Alaska 110 – Miller 28, Hugnatan 21, Thoss 17, Cariaso 16, Ferriols 8, Cortez 8, Laure 6, Dela Cruz 6, Bono 0, Quinahan 0, Aban 0.

Coca-Cola 100 – Taulava 20, Cabagnot 17, Telan 15, Buenafe 13, Arigo 9, Enrile 8, Calimag 7, Dimaunahan 7, Tolomia 4, Catli 0, Misolas 0.

Quarterscores: 21-20, 49-43, 78-70, 110-100. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

LANIYO

From Page 28

the score at 4-4.

Laniyo, with still two outs, then hit a Leo Bobai 2-1 pitch, finding a gap at right center field to drive in Camacho, who in return scored the game-winning run.

Celebration erupted as Camacho crossed home plate as his cheering teammates and fans met him.

It was Wells Fargo's fourth straight win after going undefeated in the elimination round that earned them the top seeding and first finals berth.

The Wranglers scored consecutive wins against Pacific Islands Club and United Micronesian Development Association in the eliminations, then defeated PTI in the semis to earn the first finals berth.

PTI, meanwhile, beat Vox Vodka and Bing Energy Drink-MARPAC and Shell Marianas in the eliminations, then faced MARPAC, which placed third, in the semis of the losers bracket to earn the right of facing the Wranglers in the finals.

Action in the NMI Crime Stoppers Softball Tournament started on Saturday, Jan. 26.

The eight teams that competed are Wells Fargo, Shell Marianas, PTI, Vox Vodka and Bing Energy Drink of MARPAC, PIC, UMDA, DFS Galleria, and Marianas Cable Vision.

CNMI Crime Stoppers chairman Jim Arenovski said fundraising raffle tickets are still on sale until Feb. 29. Prizes include a return ticket to anywhere in Asia from Northwest Airlines, room stay, meals, and water park passes from various hotels, lunches and dinners from various restaurants, and much more.

Unlike years past, the 2008 edition of the annual fundraising event for the island's crime reporting hotline failed to have a home run derby. Arenovski said they will try and resurrect the slugging competition next year.

HEO

From Page 28

with the ITF and to New Caledonia. And I will be playing [in] two other ITF [tournaments] in Fiji," said Heo in an email.

Heo said he would concentrate his training in singles play and he would likely play in the doubles event to improve his flexibility and reflexes. He added that his father would help him train and finance his trip to future ITF tournaments.

Heo, who said that he was honored by being invited by the ITF to join their Junior Touring Team, said that he knows he could have made it to the finals of one event but breaks of the game and luck did not side with him.

"I was really honored to join the ITF [Pacific Oceania team]. I felt good that I almost reached the finals but a [little] bit disappointed [for failing] to do so," said Heo, who always travels without his parents.

Heo added that his Australian stint was also a learning experience on his part. "I have learned lots [of things] in Australia. Such as how to play serve-and-volley. My volleying got a lot better since volleying is essential in grass courts."

Heo said the trip was a lot different from his previous off-island sorties since he also had the chance to play on a grass court. He said, that at first he was a little bit intimidated but got used to it after several practices. "It was really fun. I was having mixed emotions when I saw the grass courts. I was really excited to play."

Heo's three-week long Australian tennis tour helped boost his confidence as he prepares to take on the challenge of joining several ITF-organized events this year.

The 15-year-old Heo said his trip also motivated him to focus on practicing and training even harder.

Heo played his best tennis in the CountryLink Victorian Junior Classic where he previously scored stunning upsets over seeded opponents before finally meeting his match in the boys' 16-and-under singles losing to Rory de Bouer in the semifinals.

He earned some consolation after becoming the only unseeded and non-Australian player that went up against homegrown and top-ranked opponents in the semifinals.

Heo then partnered with William O'Connell in the doubles division but lost both of their semis matches in the CountryLink Classic and Margaret Court Cup.

He also entered the semifinal round of the consolation draw of two age divisions in the Ducats Junior Classic and reached the quarterfinals of the singles division in the Margaret Court Cup.

Heo competed in his first Australian junior championship tournament after he was invited to become a member of the ITF Pacific Oceania Junior Touring Team late last year.

Heo received an invitation to join the ITF Pacific-Oceania Junior Touring Team in Australia last October. He left Saipan last Dec. 27 joining a group of Under-18 players that traveled around Australia from Dec. 30 to Jan. 18.

16 TEAMS

From Page 28

week in Sydney where they finalized the eight competing nations that will be sending teams in the men's and women's divisions.

Smith, in the email, said 23 teams showed interest in joining the tournament, but only 16 were accepted from eight member federations.

Aside from host Guam, the other competing nations are Australia, the CNMI, Palau, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji.

Smith said she will be sending additional information and details, including a revised timeline due to the change of tournament dates, in the coming months.

She added that she is also negotiating a group fare or a charter flight out of Cairns, Australia where teams from Australia, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and Papua New Guinea can take advantage of the arrangement.

Smith congratulated all teams that made the short list and wished them well in their practice and fundraising events.

The 2008 FIBA Oceania Under-19 Youth Basketball Tournament was originally scheduled to take place from July 12 to 20 but was pushed back.

Details of the weeklong tournament are being finalized like the logo and venue for the basketball games.

The eight competing teams are limited only to 13 members composed of 10 players, one coach, one manager, and one referee. If a participating country fields teams in both divisions, they are entitled to bring in an additional person as head of their delegation.

Host Guam will provide accommodations, transport going to and from the hotels and game venue, and meals for all the teams. Teams need to have a qualified and experienced referee in order to be accepted in the tournament.

Top performers and best players in the tournament will be selected to become members of the Oceania men's and women's All Star teams that will join the Australian Under-18 National Championships in February 2009. All-Star coaches and referees will also be selected in the Guam competition.

Players who are qualified to join the Under-19 youth tournament are those born starting Jan. 1, 1989. Australia and New Zealand will also be competing in the Guam tournament.

For more information, email Judy Smith at judy@fibaoceania.com at the FIBA Oceania office.

Aside from Guam, American Samoa, Fiji, and Samoa bid to host the 2008 FIBA Oceania Under-19 Youth Basketball Tournament.

The 2008 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament will be the 7th edition of the event, which began in 1997 in Fiji. New Caledonia (1998), Vanuatu (200), Tonga (20002), Australia (2004), and New Zealand (2006) also hosted the tournament.

Teams from the Pacific Island nations earn the chance of playing against Australia and New Zealand in an international competition in the tournament, which is being used as a gauge on the progress of their basketball program.

Training sessions, seminars, and clinics for players, coaches, referees, and basketball administrators were also held during the tournament to continue further FIBA's Oceania basketball development program.

Most of the national men's team players and coaches of the FIBA member federations were products of this program.

MENUDO

From Page 28

do last week, placed seventh with a 1-2 mark.

Beach Jammers and Ma Numel'u complete the standings as they have to score a win after playing three and four games.

Home Boyz stayed closely behind Menudo after a 25-12, 30-28, 15-8 win over Manumel'u, while No Fear was stretched to the limit by Beach Jammers before securing a 25-21, 29-27, 15-13 triumph.

CH-Hammer, after a 0-2 start, rebounded from a first set loss to win its second straight game with a 22-25, 25-15, 15-9 decision against the unpredictable Fanians.

In the women's division, Pikan Gaga dealt YoYo's a 25-23, 21-25, 15-12 loss to remain the only undefeated team in its young season. Beach Jammers earned its first win after a 25-19, 15-25, 17-15 triumph over Ta Chagi.

Tomorrow's games in the men's league will have No Fear going up against Fanians in the 6pm first game and will be followed by the Islanders-Home Boyz 7pm match. Menudo takes on Ol'Aces, while CH-Hammer will test Beach Jammers in the nightcap. Ma Numel'u will drew a bye.

In the women's division, Sekid clashes with Ta Chagi in the 6pm opener, while Beach Jammers collide with YoYo's in the 7pm match. Pikan Gaga will take a bye.

For more information, call Cramer at 235-6231 at ext. 5148 or e-mail him at seaexec@pic-saipan.com or Janice Camacho at 868-9515 or 323-6565 or 66 or 67 or 68 or e-mail her at nonose98@gmail.com.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	34	7	.829	_
Toronto	24	19	.558	11
New Jersey	18	25	.419	17
Philadelphia	17	28	.378	19
New York	14	28	.333	20 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	27	18	.600	_
Washington	23	18	.561	2
Atlanta	18	21	.462	6
Charlotte	17	27	.386	9 1/2
Miami	9	33	.214	16 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	31	13	.705	_
Cleveland	23	19	.548	7
Indiana	19	26	.422	12 1/2
Chicago	17	25	.405	13
Milwaukee	17	27	.386	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	31	12	.721	_
Dallas	29	13	.690	1 1/2
San Antonio	28	14	.667	2 1/2
Houston	24	19	.558	7
Memphis	13	31	.295	18 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	26	16	.619	_
Portland	25	18	.581	1 1/2
Utah	25	18	.581	1 1/2
Seattle	9	34	.209	17 1/2
Minnesota	7	35	.167	19

Pacific Division

Phoenix	31	13	.705	_
L.A. Lakers	27	14	.659	2 1/2
Golden State	26	18	.591	5
Sacramento	18	24	.429	12
L.A. Clippers	13	27	.325	16

Yesterday's Games

Miami 98, Indiana 96
Philadelphia 103, Charlotte 96
Memphis 125, L.A. Clippers 120, OT
New Orleans 102, San Antonio 78

BUICK INVITATIONAL SCORES

Third Round

Tiger Woods	67-65-66	198
Stewart Cink	68-69-69	206
Joe Durant	70-70-67	207
Doug LaBelle II	68-72-69	209
Justin Leonard	76-68-65	209
Aaron Baddeley	71-67-71	209
Boo Weekley	72-66-71	209
Ryuji Imada	69-72-69	210
Jeff Quinney	69-71-70	210
Stuart Appleby	67-72-71	210
Steve Elkington	71-71-69	211
Camilo Villegas	69-72-70	211
Kevin Sutherland	73-68-70	211
Phil Mickelson	70-73-68	211
Kenneth Ferrie	73-67-71	211
Fred Couples	71-69-71	211
Carlos Frano	71-69-71	211
Charles Howell III	68-72-71	211
John Senden	70-69-72	211
Kevin Streelman	67-69-75	211
Carl Pettersson	70-72-70	212
Rory Sabbatini	67-75-70	212
Matt Jones	72-70-70	212
John Mallinger	74-66-72	212
Robert Allenby	70-70-72	212
Nathan Green	68-72-72	212
Briny Baird	71-71-71	213
Justin Bolli	74-69-70	213
Troy Matteson	65-75-73	213
Hunter Mahan	71-69-73	213
Dean Wilson	69-71-73	213
Bill Haas	72-68-73	213
Jim Furyk	73-68-73	214
Matt Kuchar	71-72-71	214
Tag Ridings	73-71-70	214
Parker McLachlin	69-73-73	215
Shigeki Maruyama	71-71-73	215
Frank Lickliter II	72-70-73	215
Vijay Singh	73-68-74	215
Jeff Maggert	71-72-72	215
Steve Marino	74-70-71	215
Rod Pampling	70-72-74	216
Chris Stroud	73-70-73	216
Jon Mills	73-70-73	216
J.B. Holmes	71-73-72	216
Jin Park	71-73-72	216
Dustin Johnson	72-70-75	217
Cliff Kresge	76-67-74	217
Tim Herron	72-72-73	217
Roland Thatcher	73-71-73	217
Jason Gore	73-71-73	217
Jamie Lovemark	73-71-73	217
Kevin Stadler	68-74-76	218
Sean O'Hair	76-68-74	218
Brett Wetterich	72-72-74	218
Brad Adamonis	66-72-80	218
Marc Turnesa	73-70-76_	219
Bubba Watson	73-71-75	219
Craig Barlow	71-73-75	219
Mark O'Meara	72-72-75	219
Jason Day	72-72-75	219
Tom Pernice, Jr.	71-73-75	219
George McNeill	72-72-75	219
John Rollins	71-71-78	220
Cody Freeman	70-74-77	221
Travis Perkins	76-68-77	221

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA STANDINGS

Men's League

	W	L	PF	PA	SW
Menudo	3	1	247	193	10
Home Boyz	3	1	244	221	9
Islanders	3	1	216	234	6
No Fear	2	1	193	171	6
Ol'Aces	2	1	181	179	5
CH-Hammer	2	2	222	215	5
Fanians	1	2	166	174	4
Beach Jammers	0	3	162	200	0
Ma Numel'u	0	4	218	262	3

Women's League

Pikan Gaga	2	0	126	110	4
Beach Jammers	1	1	107	124	3
YoYo's	1	1	130	125	3
Ta Chagi	0	1	59	57	1
Sekid	0	1	64	70	1

PF-Points for
PA-Points allowed
SW-Sets won

No-Use advances to Rocball championship

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

No-Use is the first team to advance to the championship round of the 2007-2008 World Organized Rocball Community League after sweeping No Mercy last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

No-Use clinched a spot in the title game by juicing-out No Mercy in four sets, 72-64. With no quarter time breaks and no halftime rest, the game was completed in about 50 minutes.

Try-Outs and Evenflow played a similar contest in the other semifinal game with the former forcing a third and deciding game following 45 minutes of play in the weekend opener.

In the second game, No-Use and No Mercy flip-flopped their scores in the first two sets. Both teams then started the third tied at 36 points each. No-Use won the first set 21-15, but No Mercy came back and won the second, 21-15.

In the third set, No-Use spiked, killed, dinked, and backcourt scored without mercy to win the third set against No-Mercy, 21-7.

No Mercy had two options in order to win the game by the end of the fourth set. They would have had to win the fourth set by 15 points or win by any margin less than 15 to block No-Use from juicing-out and forcing the game into overtime.

But No-Use chose neither of those options for a chance to advance into the finals of the 2007-2008 season of Rocball.

No-Use liked the way the third set ended so much they came out and defeated No-Mercy by the same score, 21-7, and ended No-Mercy's bid to make it to the finals.

In the first game, Try-Outs came on strong in the first set and beat down Evenflow, 23-13. Evenflow came back in the second and third sets, 21-18 and 22-10, to take the lead in game points 56 to 51.

In order to win the game, Try-Outs had to score the difference of the score after three sets of play plus one point, or by margin no less than six points. Meanwhile, all Evenflow had to do to win the game, was to win the fourth set by any margin.

But Try-Outs started the fourth with vigor and overpowered Evenflow en route to a 14-point margin, 22-8. The win was the first victory Try-Outs had against Evenflow in the four times they have matched up so far this season.

No Mercy was the only team during the regular season to defeat No-Use and spoiled No-Use's undefeated record in the regular season of play.

On Saturday, Feb. 2, Try-Outs and Evenflow will play their last game of their semifinal series beginning at 6:30pm at the MHS Gym.

The winner of that game will advance to the championship and face off against No-Use in the best-of-five series. The finals will use 25-point sets, in Rocball quarter/set system of play, for the honor of being declared champion of Saipan's indigenous sport this year.

Stevedore D9ers individual feats honored

JON PEREZ

Ben Mesa of the Saipan Stevedore D9ers pose with his three kids after collecting four trophies in the award ceremony of the 2007 Masters Baseball League Wednesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The season-long individual performances of the Saipan Stevedore D9ers were honored Wednesday night in the award ceremony of the 2007 Masters Baseball League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Leading the list of winners was D9ers shortstop Ben Mesa, who went home with four trophies including the regular season most valuable player award.

The veteran slugger was the league's batting champion going 20-for-27 or a .741 average; and joined teammates Tony Camacho, Mel Sakisat, and Greg Camacho and Viva Poker Korean Dreams' John Terlaje as the only players who hit a home run all season long. Mesa also drove in 21 runs to become the league's RBI king.

Teammates Poland Masaharu and Mabel Ngirengemelas of the Atty. Johnson Toribiong-sponsored Rubak were named doubles champions with four each, while compatriot Payton Sakuma earned the triples title with three.

The D9ers earned the pennant after finishing the regular season with an 8-1 mark. They won nine straight games including a 23-0 thumping of the Dreams in the playoffs.

They also swept the Atty. Bob O'Connor Tigers in the regular season only to let the league title slip away from their hands in a 6-12 loss Wednesday night.

Aside from picking up the pennant, the D9ers also earned the runner-up honors. The Tigers won the title while Rubak was also awarded the pennant runner-up crown.

The D9ers' Larry Tenorio, Joseph Tenorio, Ben Mesa, Tony Camacho, Jess Peterson, Ben Tenorio, Randal Aguon, Lars Kileleman, Ed Manibusan, Chel Castrom Frank Cruz, Ed Sablan, Bob Lizama, Greg Camacho, Tony Luzama, Ben Lizama, Brian Lizama, Paul Camacho, Mel Sakisat, George Castro, and Lawrence Camacho were also awarded their own pennant trophies.

The Tigers' Ben Mesa was named the finals MVP after holding the hard-hitting D9ers to nine hits with no strikeouts and two walks.

Dave Kapileo and Tony Camacho earned the regular season pitching honors. Kapileo was named the strikeout king while Camacho earned the ERA title.

NMBF announces new payment scheme

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Effective last Jan. 20, the Northern Marianas Badminton Federation has implemented a new membership payment scheme.

NMBF membership committee chair Hapi Gabriel said members are now required to pay an annual membership fee of $15 each. This entitles the member one NMBF shirt, three clinic sessions (especially for new members), and a chance to play in tournaments. NMBF officials also planned a similar clinic to long-time members.

Gabriel said with the new scheme, monthly paying members will no longer pay the $1 per day fee during morning practice sessions. "As members you either have to pay for your monthly dues of $10 or pay $1 per day during the daily scheduled game. Monthly paying members are no longer required to pay $1 per day of the daily scheduled game."

The deadline of payment for the annual membership fee is on Feb. 15. Those who fail to meet the deadline are instead going to pay $2 per day during the daily morning schedule of practices.

Gabriel added that monthly payments should be made on or before the 10th day of each month.

For more information, call Gabriel at 287-4274 or email nmbf@yahoogroups.com.

Top Pool Bar 8-ball moved to Thursday

Top Pool Bar has moved its Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament from Sunday to Thursday, according to the sports bar and watering hole's owner and manager Zheng Jian Qing.

Like the Sunday tournament, the Thursday competition will have a double-elimination format and entrance fee is still $10 per player.

Zheng thus is inviting Saipan's elite billiards players to take part in the Top Pool Bar Professional 9-Ball Billiards Tournament this coming Thursday, Jan. 31.

The Top Pool Bar Professional 9-Ball Billiards Tournament, meanwhile, will continue this Saturday night, Feb. 2. Registration for both tournaments starts at 7pm.

The sports bar is also reminded interested 8- and 9-ball players that early birds get a chance to practice for free on any of Top Pool Bar's full-size billiard tables an hour before the competition.

Top Pool Bar, located along Hotel Street Garapan a stone's throw away from the Paseo de Marianas, is as spacious as it is modern and boasts of two 9-1/2-by-5-foot tables usually found in professional tournaments abroad.

For more information on the ongoing 9-ball weekly competition, call Zheng at 287-7676 or check out the competition's website at www.saipanero.com/bars/toppoolbar. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Umpires wanted for Little League season

The Saipan Little League Baseball Association is looking for individuals who want to become volunteer umpires for the upcoming season, which is set to open on Feb. 7 at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Interested individuals are invited to attend umpire volunteers meeting on Jan. 30, Wednesday, 6pm at the pavilion beside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

A total of 10 teams have signified their intention to join the Majors division of the Saipan Little League led by the fourth-title seeking Patriots.

The SLLBA is hoping to again tap the support of local businesses for their 2008 season where they plan to again talk to various businesses on Saipan to become their financial supporter.

Aside from planning the 2008 season, SLLBA officials with the help of CNMI Little League district administrator James Ada will also start their preparation for the hosting of the district and regional tournaments.

Saipan will be hosting Tinian and Rota in the 2008 CNMI District Tournament. The winners of the district tournament will represent the CNMI in the regional meet where they will be facing teams from Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and the Philippines,

The 2008 SLLBA officers are president Juan I. Tenorio, vice president and player agent Michael A. Borja, secretary Bobbie Norita-Techur, treasurer Annie Deleon Guerrero Flores, chief statistician Roque Celis, safety officer Ben Taitano, umpire consultant James Miwata, and managers' representative George N. Camacho. ***(Jon Perez)***

No-Use advances to Rocball championship
No-Use is the first team to advance to the championship round of the 2007-2008 World Organized Rocball Community League after sweeping No Mercy last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Heat snaps 15-game skid, beat Pacers
The Miami Heat beat the Indiana Pacers 98-96 on Saturday and ended a 15-game losing streak—the longest in the NBA this season and the second-longest in franchise history.
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Laniyo leads Wells Fargo to championship

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Same team, different name, same result.

Wells Fargo Financial Wranglers opened up the slow-pitch softball tournament season by claiming the 6th Annual CNMI Crime Stoppers Softball Tournament yesterday at the Dandan Softball Field.

J.J. Laniyo played the hero's role after he singled in a run to help Team Wells Fargo, formerly known as No Ka Oi, to a 5-4 win over PTI in the tournament finals to complete the Wranglers' back-to-back title bid.

J.J. Laniyo of the Wells FargoWranglers waits for the throw by PTI pitcher Leo Bobai in yesterday's finals match in the 6th Annual CNMI Crime Stoppers Softball Tournament at the Dandan Elementary School Softball Field.
JON PEREZ

JON PEREZ
Members of the Wells Fargo Wranglers celebrate their victory in the 6th Annual CNMI Crime Stoppers Softball Tournament at the Dandan Elementary School Softball Field. They beat PTI, 5-4, in yesterday's finals.

Technically, it was the Wranglers' fifth straight crown since most of its members are from perennial title winner No Ka Oi. They received $300 for their feat.

Trailing 3-4, at the top of the seventh inning, Wranglers' pitcher Mel Sakisat shut down the PTI offense after giving up a lead-off single to Landon Martin.

The Wranglers then made their comeback in the bottom half of the inning with Toni Celis having a lead-off walk and Tony Camacho followed it up with a single.

Jonathan Delos Santos flied out at right field, while Pete Sablan grounded out at second base for a quick two outs. Pinch hitter Joey Dela Cruz had an RBI double to let Celis touch home plate to tie

See LANIYO on Page 26

Heo to skip local tourneys this year

JON PEREZ
Top NMI youth netter Ji Hoon Heo serves in this file photo during a recent tournament on Saipan.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

With memories of his three-week long stint at the Australian Junior tennis circuit still fresh in his mind, Korean-born Ji Hoon Heo is planning to skip tournaments on Saipan to concentrate more in international games.

"I don't think I'll be joining tournaments here [on] Saipan but [rather I will] use that time to train," said Heo, who saw action in three International Tennis Federation-organized junior tournaments in the Land Down Under.

Arguably, the top male youth netter in the CNMI, Heo was invited to join the ITF Pacific-Oceania Junior touring team that played in the 2008 Ducats G.V. Junior Tennis Tournament, 2008 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup, and the 2008 CountryLink Victorian Junior Classic.

Though he is still not sure about his future plans, Heo said he would definitely focus his training to prepare for ITF-sponsored tournaments.

"I might go to Singapore and [then] go to Fiji for another tour

See HEO on Page 26

16 teams to join FIBA Oceania youth caging

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A total of 16 teams will be competing in this year's FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament, which will be held from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 in Guam.

According to FIBA Oceania Administration and Special projects director Judy Smith, in an email forwarded by Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands secretary general Michael A. White, the management committee met last

See 16 TEAMS on Page 26

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
The CNMI's Freddie Pelisamen goes up against a defender from Palau in this file photo from the basketball competition of the 2006 Saipan Micronesian Games. Both island nations have expressed interest in taking in the 2008 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament set at the end of the year.

Menudo sweeps Islanders, return to top

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Powerhouse Menudo returned to the top of the standings of the 2008 season of the Men's Indoor Volleyball Winter League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Two days after suffering a 25-19, 17-21, 5-15 loss to Fanians last Tuesday, Menudo came roaring back in the nine-team field and overpowered the Islanders, 25-21, 25-7, 15-7.

After a tightly fought first set, where Menudo relied on excellent defense at the net and timely placed shots to escape with the win, the Mark McDonald- and Tyce Mister-led squad outscored their opponents in the last two sets, 40-14.

The win was the third against one loss for Menudo, while ending their victims' three-game winning streak. Home Boyz came in second as they had the most points scored compared to the third-running Islanders, 244-216.

No Fear and Ol'Aces came in fourth and fifth with similar 2-1 records, while CH-Hammer had an even 2-2 slate at sixth place. Fanians, who stunned Menu-

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